





Gc  
977.702  
S174s  
1978203

M. L.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

✓

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01716 4259











# SIoux RAPIDS

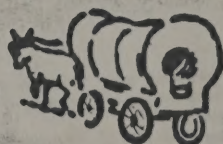
Iowa

1855

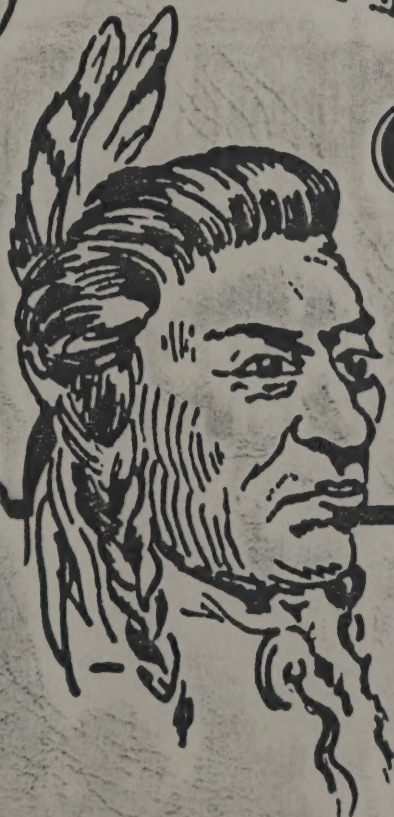
1955

1855 - 1955

IOWA



CENTENNIAL  
AUG. 1-2-3









627  
562

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

1204

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=Int'l Letter Telegram

VLT=Int'l Victory Ltr.

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

NL Pd

The White House

Washington, D. C., July 5, 1955

Charles G. Gustafson  
Chairman Sioux Rapids Centennial  
Sioux Rapids, Iowa

Please extend my warm greetings and congratulations to the citizens of Sioux Rapids on its 100th anniversary. I appreciate your invitation to your celebration. I know it will be a great success stimulating all of you to look back over the history of your region in the past century and to remember the Pioneers whose labors furthered its development. To all of you my best wishes.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

1978203



DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

91872

Rec'd Nov 23-1977









IOWA  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
DES MOINES

LEO A. HOEGH  
GOVERNOR

June 27, 1955.

To the Citizens of Sioux Rapids,  
Sioux Rapids, Iowa.

As Governor of Iowa I am delighted to have this opportunity to extend congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the Sioux Rapids Centennial. All Iowa joins me in these sentiments.

Sioux Rapids and its men and women have, through the years, played an important part in the building of our Great State. The Community has contributed far more than its share of leadership to the growth and development of Iowa. For that contribution we are all grateful and proud.

The past 100 years have seen a tiny settlement established on the banks of the Little Sioux develop into one of Iowa's most progressive and prosperous cities. We all know that as you start your second century, your growth and progress will continue.

With all good wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Leo A. Hoegh".

LEO A. HOEGH,  
Governor of Iowa.

LAH:fh





## Greetings

Words are not quite adequate to express my sincere appreciation for the untiring and loyal cooperation of all my friends and associates in undertaking this big task to make the Sioux Rapids Centennial Celebration a remarkable success.

Hundreds of persons from Sioux Rapids and vicinity have shared in a collective effort to give our citizens a rekindled pride in their heritage of history—a new faith in their tomorrow.

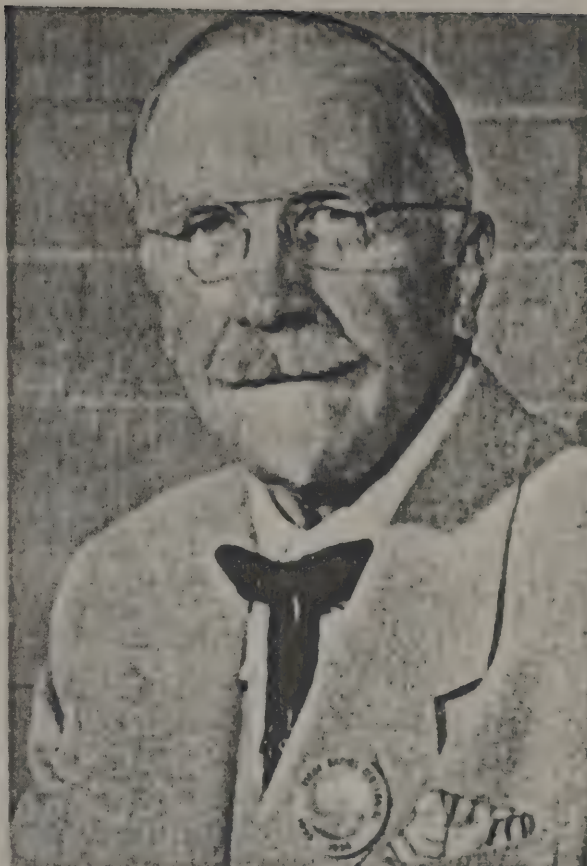
All business—industry—professions, churches, schools and civic organizations have closed rank in a common cause. They have demonstrated that Sioux Rapids and vicinity consist of mighty fine people who have an instinct for working together.

Sioux Rapids Centennial Celebration is the highlight of many months of planning and hard work. It now has its climax in the great Historical Pageant Spectacle and we have faith that its echo will be a highlighted and a continuing community loyalty dawns for Sioux Rapids.

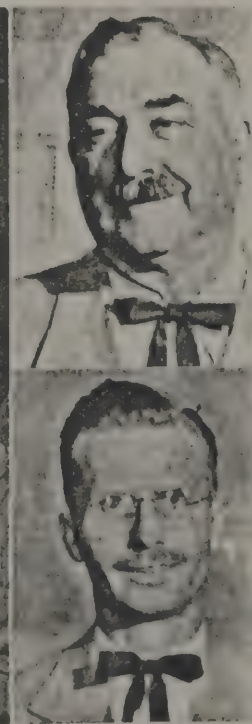
So—to all my friends and worthy associates—I say

“You have done a great job and rest assured that it will show a complete record of most successful efforts and have lasting memories for years to come.

CHARLES G. GUSTAFSON



CHARLES G. GUSTAFSON  
Chairman Centennial Committee



OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SIOUX RAPIDS CENTENNIAL CORPORATION—1955

Back Row: Al Gran, Kenneth Kas, John A. Malone, Ted Witter, Arthur J. Scott, Jay Bales.

Bottom Row: Mayor L. D. Williams, Jim Rice, Mrs. Cordelia Johnson, Charles Gustafson, Lowell Henry.

Elmer Hanson  
Dr. D. E. Endersby





# CONTENTS

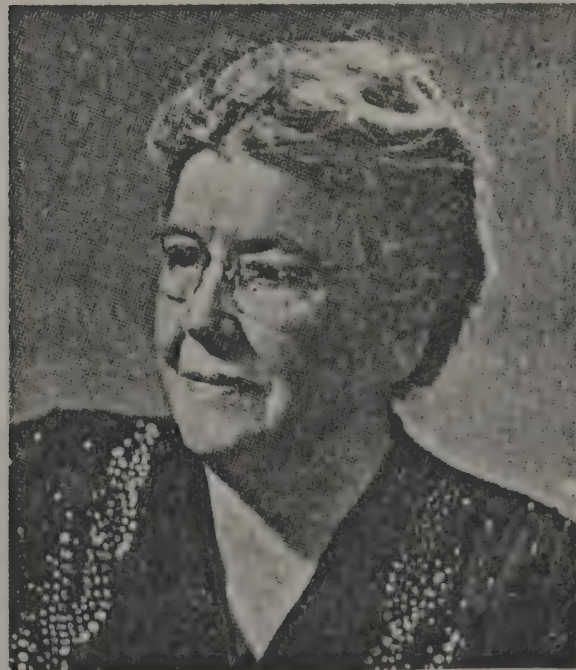
	Page
To My Old Home Town—Grace Noll Crowell.....	4
Our Centennial Year.....	5
1. The Little Sioux Welcomes the White Man.....	6
2. The Indian Raid.....	10
3. The Prairie Schooners Roll Westward.....	11
4. Early Pioneer Living.....	15
5. Law and Order.....	18
6. Those Golden Rule Days.....	21
7. Remember the Sabbath.....	27
8. Dark Days.....	31
9. Industry, Railroads and Bridges.....	35
10. The News.....	38
11. Guarding the Health of the People of Sioux Rapids.....	43
12. Happy Times in the Little Sioux Valley.....	45
13. Uncle Johnny Burr and the Death of Abner Bell.....	51
14. Famous People.....	51
15. Interesting People.....	54
16. War Clouds.....	71
17. The Magnificent River.....	74
18. Reminiscing.....	77
19. Approaching 1955.....	80
20. 1955.....	85

## *To My Old Home Town*

(Sioux Rapids)

Little, lovely, friendly town  
 Bright beneath your maple trees—  
 With your dooryards sending out  
 Lilac scent upon the breeze;  
 Through the hurried years, I trust,  
 In the changes you have made,  
 That you kept your dooryards sweet,  
 Kept your arching trees for shade;  
 Kept the friendliness I knew  
 In the olden, golden days—  
 Kept your neighborly, fine ways;  
 With your home lamps and your fires  
 Glowing out upon each street  
 For the stranger in your midst  
 Passing by on lonely feet;  
 Kept your small-town sympathy,  
 Kept your laughter and your tears . . .  
 Have you kept them, little town  
 Through these difficult, hard years?  
 If you have, I think some day,  
 Like a magnet strong and true,  
 You will reach across the miles  
 And will draw me back to you.

—GRACE NOLL CROWELL



MRS. GRACE NOLL CROWELL  
 Nationally Known Writer and Poetess, Former Resident  
 of Sioux Rapids



## Our Centennial Year

When a town celebrates its hundredth anniversary, it is perfectly proper to get out the old family album and reminisce a bit. The history of any town is the history of the people who have lived there. The poor and the rich, the good and the bad, the great and the small. Sioux Rapids has had some of each. They have left their mark on every enterprise.

Sioux Rapids is our town, to us maybe the lights are a little brighter, the church bells ring a little clearer, maybe the jail is a little emptier, maybe the girls are a little prettier, maybe the men are a little handsomer, maybe the welcome mat stands out a little farther. Yes, this is your town. Yours and mine.

Have you ever been away from home and then come back down that last, winding mile on Highway 71, from the north and see the lights of home, the lights of Sioux Rapids which is nestled at the foot of the hills in the valley? They are so beautiful, oh, so beautiful!

Hidden away in these homes, where the lights are shining are lovely pieces of old glass, linen, jewelry, pictures and countless things, and about these objects, there is always a priceless story that should be brought out in the open. In many of these homes still live the pioneer of yesteryear. We have visited with many of these and heard their story in order that we might pass it on to you. We owe much to these early pioneers and their descendants who gave so graciously of their writings, their diaries and their memories. We enjoyed every minute spent with them, and after hearing their stories I am sure we appreciate the many things we have today much more.

For other material for this history we are indebted to the Sioux Rapids paper, *The Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, *The Storm Lake Register*, and the *History of Buena Vista County* by C. H. Wergerslev and Thomas Walpole and the *Buena Vista County History* by the Iowa Writers Project W.P.A., also the *Peterson Patriot* and other written articles.

Perhaps we should also pay silent tribute to those who have already answered "that last call," for in Lone Tree Cemetery lies many men who gave so much to make Sioux Rapids what it is today.

We do not claim to be writers, but in our own simple way we will try to record some of the history that was given to us, in hopes that you will forgive our mistakes for they were not made intentionally.

We wish to thank our advertisers, all those who contributed pictures and all those who by their efforts made this book possible.



MRS. BETTY MATTHEWS  
Chairman of Book  
Committee



MRS. GUY MILLS  
Centennial Historian and  
Writer





# The Little Sioux Welcomes the White Man

Shall we stop and compare a little as we turn back to the beginning of the century? Everything then showed God's handiwork. This territory was a vast wilderness, given over by the Almighty to wild beasts, birds of the air, and the Indians who roamed everywhere with no care for the morrow. No thought came to him that his possessions would be disturbed by the paleface. The deer and the elk fed on the tall, prairie grasses and sought shelter in the wooded spots along the the Little Sioux River.

For centuries the Little Sioux River, sometimes peaceful and calm, sometimes wild and turbulent has wended its way through the valleys.

The original forest growth of Buena Vista County was limited to that part of the valley of the Little Sioux River. An unusual number of forest species have been maintained through the centuries. There are two fine native forests near Sioux Rapids: one to the north in Clay County, and the other to the east along the river in Lee Township. It is true that the burr oak still stands in abundance. It has withstood the storms and prairie fires and all along the wooded area of the Little Sioux it will be found, although it may be gnarled and twisted. Other trees such as basswood, prickly ash, soft and white maple, box-elder, hawthorn, wolf-berry, sumac, wild plum, choke cherry, wild cherry, Iowa crab apple, black-haw, white ash, common white elm, slippery elm, black walnut, pignut, hazel, ironwood, cottonwood, red oak, red cedar and various willows will also be found near the river.

Then, there was the vast prairies stretching as far as one could see. Wild flowers bloomed everywhere and the tall prairie grasses grew as high as ones' head in some places. Birds nested in its folds, and muskrats built their homes in the sloughs and wet areas. Rabbits scampered here and there, wild geese would fly up in the bright sky.

There was peace and beauty everywhere, the green beneath and the blue above. Later when

the white man came, there was dash and danger, and also life and love.

The Act of 1951 set off fifty Iowa counties, fully one-half of the state, so until 1858 and afterwards, surveyors were sent out by the United States Government into this vast region and surveying was always in progress somewhere along the frontier.

Surveying was a lonely and dangerous occupation in those days. Wandering Indians were always on the look-out for the little party of surveyors, whom they hated. They feared the stakes and marks. They felt that the numerals and signs of the stakes were bad medicine and would bring evil spirits to the land.

The equipment of each surveyor would include a compass and transit, surveyors chain, wagons to carry tents or other camp equipage, and food enough to last a few weeks, or even several months. Horses and oxen were provided to haul the wagons, and often several riding horses or ponies were used by the surveyor and his assistants to cover the long distances which had to be traveled to make the survey.

It was in 1855, that two of these surveyors came through Buena Vista County. Their trail had led all day over the hot prairie country.

It was early fall and the sun beat down with that golden but fierce intensity which ripens corn in September and dries to crackling bronze the seed pods of a multitude of plants. There was no corn then, only grass. For weeks they had walked through it, until the soles of their shoes had worn slippery in the dusty miles of it and every step forward was an effort. Their nerves had become ragged as they pushed on, mile after mile.

The men were exhausted by the continuous strain. Their food had consisted of hard-tack, rusty bacon, half-cooked beans, and coffee, concocted from water from the nearest mud-hole. They enjoyed no shade beyond what was furnished by their wagon cover and they were so tired they would often-times fell asleep while walking.



ROAD BRIDGE AND DAM





Then suddenly, they came upon a green valley, shady and cool, where wild grapes ripened in the sun, and prairie plums hung in red glowing clusters. The sun was going down behind the cottonwoods. Their leaves twinkled in the light. Below was the river where clear, cool water flowed along sanded shores—a refreshing place for a thirsty and tired man to rest.

The surveyors looked at this beautiful, green, valley and the magnificent, flowing river with awe. They wiped the sweat from their brows with their shirt sleeves, and then knelt beside the river to drink long and deep, and to wash their faces in the cool water.

They looked about them, amazed at the beauty of this place, and as they made camp that night they had but one thought in mind; to stake out a claim. This was against the government rule, but they disregarded that rule.

The next morning Lane and Ray, the surveyors, drove stakes and posted notices, printing in large letters the words: "This land is taken by Lane and Ray." Then they went on with their work. The site which they marked was later to become the town of Sioux Rapids, which grew up on the Little Sioux river.

During the winter the men came back to hunt and trap along the river and were well rewarded with many beautiful furs. They built a cabin near what was afterwards called Barnes Grove. After several months they left again for the east.

Later two other surveyors, J. L. Ingalsbe and W. G. Allen, together with an old Indian fighter, Uncle Jack Parker, made camp on a knoll near the Little Sioux River over looking the site of Sioux Rapids.

On guard against hostile Indians, they surrounded their tents and wagons with rifle-pits. Never-the-less some time during the night some Sioux Indians led by Inkpaduta killed both of the surveyor's horses and one ox. We shall hear more about Inkpaduta, the Sioux Chief, later. Ingalsbe went down stream, taking several men with him. There he found suitable timber and made a single yoke for the one remaining ox. On the edge of the timber, they came upon the rude foundation of a cabin. This perhaps was the one that Lane and Ray had lived in and had been destroyed by the Indians, which were becoming more and more hostile.

Ingalsbe made careful written record of this and then carried his survey to within eighteen miles of the Minnesota line. His store of provisions were running low, Indian hostility was so evident, with no protection from troops that so that he decided to prolong his work and return east. They found neither trail nor settlers until they reached Lizard Forks, a few miles above Fort Dodge.

Meanwhile in the spring of 1856, Lane and Ray were making plans in the East to return to their settlement here. They got as far as Fort

Dodge. Here they were joined by a small group of settlers heading westward. Lane and Ray told them glowing stories of the Little Sioux Valley so it was agreed that they lead the settlers here. This little party was made up of William Weaver, his wife and her brother, Abner Bell and another family named Totten.

It was no easy task to forsake the thickly populated East of peace and plenty and blindly plunge into the unknown and unsettled West, to aid in making it possible for others to obtain a home. To these brave men and women, who dared to imperil their lives we to-day, owe a debt of eternal gratitude.

With courage in their hearts, they made ready for the trip. Already their wagons were loaded with the necessary things they must take with them. They used an ordinary farm wagon, a straight, long coupled, low boxed affair with a semi-circle of canvas above it to keep out the wind and rain. Some of their belongings, furniture, extra clothing, and a few keepsakes were piled in this wagon. The overflow was piled on another small wagon.

At last they were on their way led by Lane and Ray. Day after day they moved westward over the rough prairie, with no trail to follow. At night when dusk found them out in the open country, they slept on the ground or in the wagon depending on the weather. In the early dawn they were again on their way. Wild game was plentiful so it was added to their bill of fare. How good it tasted at the evening meal, when it had been roasted over the campfire. What was left over was saved for the noon meal next day—as they did not care to waste time building fires to prepare their noon lunch.

After many days of travel they arrived tired, but happy, in the Little Valley.

Lane and Ray did not remain with the settlers, but left shortly after they arrived here and never came back. They sold their claim to a man named Templeman, who came from Fayette County, and he held it for some years.

It has already been stated that Weaver and Totten were with this party. They had their choice of the land of the entire county, but knowing the need of wood and water, they settled in the valley along the river. Mr. Weaver took the south-west quarter of section 8 and the north-east quarter of section 7 in Lee township for there was much timber on it. Totten took his land in what was afterward known as Trusty Gulch, on section 1 in Barnes township. Bell took the south-west quarter of section 8 but he never improved it.

Lane and Ray laid out the Old Fort Dodge road that spring. They followed a trail from Fort Dodge to the North Lizard river in Calhoun county, and from there set their compass on an air-line for Sioux Rapids. This Old Fort Dodge road was used by settlers for many years, and







ABNER BELL—FIRST SETTLER IN SIOUX RAPIDS



WILLIAM R. WEAVER  
Accompanied Abner Bell. The First Settlers in Sioux  
Rapids

later became a part of the Sioux City road. It took some time to lay out this road, as swamplands, marshes and sloughs had to be avoided because of course, there was no drainage system yet. Rivers had to be forded as there were no bridges. Caravans of movers followed this trail from Fort Dodge to Sioux Rapids and then on to Sioux City. It was used by stagecoaches, covered wagons, traders, and farmers going to and from the mill. This road helped much in the development of Sioux Rapids as it was the only resting place between Fort Dodge and Sioux City.

The first actual settlement in the county dates back to the arrival of the Weavers, Totten, and Bell. Mr. Weaver and Mr. Totten began at once to erect a log cabin, but Abner Bell seemed to care little about a house. He shouldered his gun, and set off at once to see what the country afforded in the way of game, and let the other members of the party prepare for winter. While they worked, he roamed up and down the river in search of game, which he found plentiful. Beaver, mink, and otter could be found along the river and muskrats in large numbers frequented the low places. Deer and elk roamed the prairie in large herds. Bells rifle kept the settlers supplied with fresh meat. At this time he lived with the Weavers.

Bell was a remarkable man in many ways. He came from New Jersey. No one ever knew what directed him to this county, nor did he ever care to tell. On his arrival here, he was thirty-two years old, a bachelor, a democrat with not a care in the world. His schooling had been sadly neglected, one could scarcely read his writing.

Nels Suckow, who was well acquainted with Abner Bell describes him as a small man, weighing perhaps 120 pounds, active and quick, and as dark as a Spaniard. He had long black hair and wore a black beard. He was always smoking a pipe and possessed a shrewd native humor. He was honest and if he became your friend, he was a true friend, but if he was your enemy you could depend upon Bell to let you know it.

With his muzzle loading, powder and ball rifle which was of the old "Kentucky Long Tom" variety, he was a dead shot. Many were the elks he dropped.

Many strange tales were told of Mr. Bell. He hated the Indians like poison and had many skirmishes with them. Once when he was roaming along the Little Sioux he spied Inkpaduta, the Indian chief, with a band of renegades coming. This was when Inkpaduta was moving up the river from Smithland.

Bell, who was at that time living with his sister and brother-in-law immediately started for home. The Weavers were living in the east part of town then. When the Indians came they destroyed what property they did not want and took the rest with them. Bell and the Weavers hid in the gulch some distance away during the raid.





As settlements became thicker Mr. Bell formed the habit of selling venison to his neighbors and would make regular visits to them. Many times he would spend the evening with them and keep them entertained with tales of his hunting experiences or his numerous encounters with the Indians.

One day while making these visits, he found a group of Indians begging flour from a pioneer woman. Knowing that her husband was gone, he burst upon the savages with a yell that scattered them in every direction. They mounted their ponies and rode away as fast as they could.

This seemed to be the attitude of all the settlers. To them all Indians were bad. Small bands of the wandering tribes frequently made the settlers visits, but as yet gave them no cause for alarm. They appeared to be friendly. Perhaps if the settlers would have made an effort to understand their grievances, or to make friends with them things might have been different. Instead they drove them off with clubs and curses. The winter had been severe, and food was scarce so surely hunger and cold does not bring out the best in any of us. As we all know an Indian never forgets, and they remembered every hurt and grievance for they were to pay the whites back at a later date.

In the mean time the little settlement of energetic and determined pioneers made unusual progress with their labors to complete their homes. It was quite some time after taking possession of these lands that they acquired title to them.

There were a few families that had settled to the west of them, near what is now Peterson. The winter began early and from an article by Mrs. Charlotte Butler, mother of Mrs. Haywood we are able to get an idea of just how severe it turned out to be: "It was now the beginning of December and once more a team must be sent to Cedar Rapids for supplies. Jacob Kirchner, a lad of seventeen, living near Peterson, Abner Bell and Mr. Weaver started out on this trip. Another man started out with his team, to go to Sac City for meal. But before the men could return, the



MRS. WM. R. WEAVER—nee Catherine Bell  
Mother of the Weaver Twins

first fierce storm of the winter came, and was followed by others even more fierce. In all the annals of Iowa there has never been recorded such a severe winter—such quantities of snow, such fierce winds and such cold. Later we were to learn that the men had reached a settlement on the Lizard, about 20 miles northwest of Fort Dodge on their return journey, when the storm overtook them. To reach home they had to cross what was known as "The forty mile prairie", for that distance there was neither house, tree nor trail to guide them. They believed that the oxen might be able to get through the snow, so they took the horses back to the house of the nearest settler and arranged for him to care for them. When they tramped back to the wagons, however, they found one of the oxen dead and covered with snow. The surviving ox was then taken back to the place where they had left the horses and the three men determined to cross that fearful forty-mile stretch on foot. When they reached their wagons one of the fiercest blizzards of the winter was raging and they had to remain in the wagons without food or water, excepting as they swallowed snow or chewed on raw strips of pork Mr. Kirchner said, the raw meat was so tough they really could not eat it, but only chewed the rind. On the morning of the third day the storm abated, and by tearing up his shirt flaps for kindling, Jacob Kirchner succeeded in starting a fire. They melted snow for drinking and making coffee, baked pancakes, and fried pork, and rejoiced in the comfortable fire and hot food after three cold and cheerless days. They also baked pancakes and fried meat enough to take with them on the long and dangerous tramp across the prairie, with the sun to guide them by day, and the stars by night. Mr. Weaver had a wife and



ABNER BELL'S CABIN





children waiting for him, Mr. Bell was a young man, unmarried, and Jacob Kirchner was a mere lad of seventeen. For three days they struggled on through the snowdrifts before they reached the Little Sioux river. They rested in holes dug in the snow banks, and became so exhausted and discouraged that they were repeatedly at the point of giving up. Finally Mr. Bell declared he could not take another step and that the snow-bank should be his grave. After vainly trying to persuade him to follow them, Jacob drew his pistol and said, "that he would shoot him if he did not get up and march on." They started then, and when they really saw trees on the bank of the river, Bell was ahead of them all. They reached the Weaver home about midnight and there found food and shelter they needed so badly. As Jacob Kirchner was still twelve miles from home, a Mr. Wilcox accompanied him from the Weaver home, thinking he might need help, as his feet were frozen badly. He even had to crawl part of the way Mr. Wilcox said, "He was pure grit through and through." His grandmother cared for the poor, frozen feet very tenderly and skillfully, and all the family were trying to make him

less uncomfortable. For many days, however, the pain was almost unbearable. They made a salve, when used was both soothing and healing; after using this the poor feet soon responded to treatment. After a time he was able to move about the house, although many of the nails and much of the flesh dropped off his toes and his feet were tender for a long time. Later he was always proud of his feet and rejoiced in neat well-fitting boots, smaller than any of the older boys could wear. He always told that his feet were small because he lost so much of them during that first winter in Iowa.

The winter grew colder and the snow deeper. When the sun shone the sun dogs looked almost as bright as the sun; the trees would crack so loudly from the cold that it sounded like the report of a gun. Some days great packs of wolves were seen howling and hunting for food.

The storms continued all through the month of January and food was getting less and less. Reports came of a man and his wife who nearly starved. Boiled deer hide and slippery elm bark was their only food. Men were lost and frozen to death while trying to help a more needy family."

## The Indian Raid

In the spring of 1857, John W. Tucker came and located on the north side of the river. Tucker built a rude cabin near the present site of Sioux Rapids.

It was this year that the Indian raid up the river stopped for a time the progress in the county. Up until February 1857, the colony had been favored by uninterrupted peace and prosperity, but in that month the red-skins came down upon them and threatened for a time to over throw all their bright hopes.

At Smithland, a party of warriors numbering perhaps sixty or seventy and led by Inkpaduta put in their appearance. They were disarmed by the whites and given to understand they would not be molested and could proceed on their journey but would not be permitted to carry firearms. They became greatly enraged and immediately started back vowing vengeance on all whites. Inkpaduta, the renegade Sioux Chief was full of revenge. He was a big man, six feet tall and strongly built. His face was covered with smallpox scars, this made him look more cruel. For several years he had hated the whites and considered them all his enemies. They had killed his brother, Sidominsdotah, on the banks of Bloody Run. They had taken his hunting grounds, killed many of his tribe and his squaws had been driven off with clubs when they were begging for food. At this time he was perhaps fifty years old and his family consisted of himself, a squaw, four sons and a daughter. Al-

though he looked upon himself and the members of his band as outcasts among his own people, he and his followers were ready at all times to offer insult and violence to the settlers.

During the winter they had several open clashes with the whites, and one Indian declared he had been bitten by a mongrel dog, belonging to a white and this insult provoked bitter feeling as the Indian killed the dog.

The Indians were becoming more and more insolent. Then one morning they were gone. They had gone up the Little Sioux terrorizing the settlers as they went. They burned homes, drove off stock, and killed the rest. They took ammunition, guns and destroyed much property. After staying here a few days they went on down the river towards Peterson. At Peterson, the Bicknell family buried nearly all their provisions in the snow, and came to the Kirchner cabin for protection. On the morning of Feb. 14, the anxious watchers saw nine Indian warriors coming single file across the snow flats which separated the cabin from the river. They wore snowshoes, and thrown around their shoulders were blankets with colored stripes. Their faces were hideously painted. The Indians came into the Kirchner cabin but did not seem malicious, they only wanted food, which they put in some pillow cases. One of the oxen had died a few days before and when they found the carcass they cut off the meat, and made signs to Mrs. Kirchner and her daughters that they must cook. The meat had scarcely





begun to boil when the women were told by gestures to remove it from the fire; the hungry warriors cut the almost raw meat in chunks, which they sopped up in molasses and devoured, adding to their warpaint a layer of blood and syrup. Towards evening they went back to camp where they had left the squaws and papooses. Here they feasted on the remains of the ox and the body of a dog. Next day they killed another cow and devoured most of it.

They soon broke camp and went on down into Brooke township. This band of blood-thirsty Siouxs then proceeded to the home of Ambrose Mead, who was absent at this time, at Cedar Falls. Previous to leaving for this place, he had arranged to have a Mr. Taylor and family to remain with Mrs. Mead and the children during his absence. The Indians became angry at Mr. Taylor and threatened to kill him. Fearing they would, he left the women and children, and set out to seek help. The Indians killed Mr. Mead's cattle and destroyed much of his property, then they knocked Mrs. Mead down and carried her daughter, Hattie, back to camp where they kept her all night. They also took a younger girl, but she cried so loudly that an Indian picked up a stick and whipped her all the way home. They had treated Mr. Taylor very cruelly also, and pushed his son into an open fire-place, burning him so badly he carried the scar on his leg for many years. Mrs. Taylor was also taken to the Indian camp, but was returned the following morning.

They followed the river to Sioux Rapids where they took Mrs. Weaver and Mrs. Totten to their camp and kept them there for several days. The men were treated badly and they tied Abner Bell to a tree, but he freed himself and went to Fort Dodge for help. This tree, known as Lone Tree stood for many years near the cemetery and gave it the name, "Lone Tree Cemetery".

Meanwhile the Indians moved on and a few days later, news came down the river of the terrible massacre at Spirit Lake, where they killed thirty-two men, women and children.

The settlers, along the river thought of organizing a company and following them, but this was impossible, as they lacked guns, ammunition, food and means of transportation, while the deep snow and constant blizzards made travel almost impossible. So they settled down, therefore to a daily routine, they visited from house to house trying to help those less fortunate. Weeks later there was another scare, when two men came down the river saying that the Indians had started out on another raid, and were moving toward Sioux Rapids. This was a false alarm, but the people were so terrified, they set out across the snow with starving oxen and meager provisions. Some went to Fort Dodge, some to Sioux City but they could not forget the hardships of that winter. Abner Bell was probably the only one that returned that spring.



THE ORIGINAL LONE TREE  
From which the cemetery was named

## The Prairie Schooners Roll Westward

In the fall of 1857, the prairie schooners again began to roll westward. They stopped at Fort Dodge and from there organized parties to make the trip to the newly discovered Little Sioux Valley. There were no roads in the Fort Dodge country, only grass grown trails.

Perhaps the first settlers to start out on this long journey were Hiram and William Brooke from Cedar Falls. Others followed in old, ramshackle wagons that would hardly hold together, they cut bows from willow saplings and bent them over the wagon, then covered them with old blankets, bed quilts, anything for protection against the hot sun, wind and rain. These wagons were drawn by horses, mules, oxen or anything that would pull a load. The family milk cow was

tied behind. Then there were those that had more money. They had strong wagons with stout canvas for a cover, still others that had bright, new Conestoga wagons that had water-tight bottoms, and could be floated across rivers, with no damage to supplies and of course there were those that drove smart carriages and spirited horses.

Progress was always slow, for there were streams and sloughs to cross, and hot, dusty, miles of prairie land to cover. For many days the ox drawn schooners would wend their way towards the west. At sunset the weary travelers would halt for the night. The tired mother prepared a simple meal over a campfire. Too weary to stay awake they all retired early, in order to be up at dawn to be on their way. At times heavy rains





made the trail bottomless and mired wheels and broken traces halted the caravan. Wagons had to be unloaded and all helped in extricating them. They were a courageous lot and the conquest of the prairie lay before them.

This prairie was a gorgeous sight, although not a tree or bush in view. The tall grass bent under the heavy, wagon wheels and wild flowers grew everywhere. The flocks of prairie chickens and frightened curlews flew up ahead the wagons. There was a smell of fall in the air, the smoky blue of the sunset, and the coolness of the night ahead.

When the two Brooke Brothers arrived near Sioux Rapids, they took four sections of timber land. Brooke township was named after them. There were traces of an Indian village there, which seemed to be of considerable size. The location of tents could be seen as stones had been piled up around them. Also many pieces of Indian pottery were found.

The next spring Luther Barnes came to the little settlement along the river. He was not a farmer, but was what they called a speculator, for he had considerable money and bought land with the idea of dividing it into town lots and re-selling them for much more money. He bought the Templeman claim, which was recently owned by Lane and Ray and large parts of two other sections and laid out a city of great magnitude and importance. He called the place Sioux Rapids, afterwards it was known as Hollingsworth Ford, but when the town came in later years it was called Sioux Rapids, the name selected by Mr. Barnes.

A document of this plat was found by Mrs. Ruth Sickles, in the effects of her late husband, Perry Sickles, she does not know how he came by it. Realizing the importance of this document she gave it to Franklin Halverson, who in turn took it to Sioux City and found that it had been recorded there. It was later given to the Sioux Rapids Memorial Library. The document shows that Luther Barnes had platted out a city nearly a mile square. Large spacious streets were outlined in this plat and generous alleys were provided. Space for public parks was left in both the north and south part of the town. The main street, running north and south was called "Main Street" and the chief artery running east and west was called "Center Street". Both of these were 120 feet wide. The streets running north and south were mostly named after trees or were of a descriptive nature, while the streets running east and west followed a numerical plan.

The plat was duly recorded in Woodbury County, and was signed by L. B. Rice, surveyor. It was also personally approved of by Luther Barnes and Sylvester H. Packard. It was taken before Judge John K. Cook, Woodbury County on the 16th of October, 1857 and found to be correct. The recording was made at 12 o'clock

noon and executed by Recorder Charles E. Hughes and filed on record on page 44 of Book One, of Woodbury, County records.

But for some reason the town did not grow as Mr. Barnes had planned. So far only thirteen settlers came. During the winter Sioux Rapids was isolated and towards spring, another rumor of an Indian raid threatened the people of Sioux Rapids. There was little ammunition in the homes. Luther Barnes was the father-in-law and partner of Sylvester H. Packard.

It was decided that Mr. Packard make an emergency trip to Fort Dodge to get ammunition. While on this mission he fell through the ice, of the Des Moines River while crossing. Bitter winter weather prevailed at this time, and Mr. Packard's feet were frozen so badly, they had to be amputated. Both Mr. Barnes and Packard became so discouraged they soon left the county. All that was left of his projected city was the stakes that laid out the squares and streets. In due time the thrifty settlers used these for firewood. Barnes township and also Barnes Grove, located south-west of Sioux Rapids was named after Mr. Barnes.

Before leaving, Mr. Barnes circulated a petition for the organization of the county. This application was filed with Judge John L. Campbell, of Woodbury County and the first election was held at the home of Mr. Barnes, on the second Tuesday of November, 1858. The majority of voters in the county agreed to organize the county.

The poll book for the election in Buena Vista County, November 1858, shows: Judges: Sylvester H. Packard, William R. Weaver, and Luther Barnes. Clerks: Lennox H. Barnes, Moses van Kirk. S. H. Packard took his oath of office before the clerk of district court in Woodbury County, and the other judges and clerks were sworn in by Packard. Lennox Barnes acted as organizing sheriff and posted notices that the election would be held November 15, 1858. At this time a number of officials were chosen: Abner Bell, sheriff; Arthur Reeves, county judge; John W. Tucker, county clerk; and William Weaver, Treasurer and Recorder. Several other offices were filled at this time.

Before this Buena Vista County was attached to Woodbury County for judicial purposes. In 1856 Judge W. Hubbard appointed three men to choose a County Seat. As Sioux Rapids was the only settlement, but the men thought this was too close to the river. So they chose a place a mile south of this and measured off ten acres for the county seat. They called this place "Prairieville." Nothing happened for two years, so Mr. Lee who had also come in 1858 acquired this land and changed the name to Leesburg. Mr. Lee had come from New York and with him came M. S. Jameson. Mr. Lee was a good





business man and settled in "Trusty Gulch." He took an interest in county affairs and built a log house at Leesburg. This was used for a dwelling, for religious services, and also official business. On all the early maps Leesburg is listed by the former name of Prairieville.

Moses Van Kirk came about this same time and settled on section two in Barnes township. A man named Cole settled in Section Six in Lee township, where he built a log house. This house was afterwards owned by Stengrin Hesla, "the Shoemaker" as he was known.

The first twins in the county were born to Mr. and Mrs. William Weaver in 1859.

In the summer of 1859, W. S. Lee went back to Wisconsin, and brought back with him Knudt Stennerson, O. A. Reng, Christian Johnson, Henry and Ole Gullickson. These men came from Allamakee County and formed a nucleus for a strong Norwegian colony that afterwards settled in Barnes and Lee Townships.

Because of the housing shortage Abner Bell and Henry Gullickson, both bachelors, moved into the upper story of the Christian Johnson's log cabin. Gullickson was Mrs. Johnson's brother. The two men slept on the floor and cooked their meals on Mrs. Johnson's stove. The Johnson cabin was considered a very fine home at that time. It was high enough on the sides that a person could walk without stooping to avoid hitting his head on the rafters.

During the time Bell lived in the upstairs rooms he kept a small store, consisting of smoking tobacco, a box of stick candy, powder, lead, and gun caps; a sack of salt, a little coffee and tea and some trapping equipment. His entire stock was less than a wagon box full. This made it very handy for the settlers and they would come often to buy of him. He had an old horse and a one horse wagon would go to Fort Dodge when the roads were good and trade furs for merchandise.

Mr. Stennerson settled in Lee Township. Others living here at this time were Isac Enders, James Gleason and John Standley who lived on Section 12 in Barnes; Moses Van Kirk on Section 2; Weaver lived on the east of Sioux Rapids on the hill, on what was afterwards known as the Struble place. James Rucker lived on Section 6 in Lee Township; Morris Metcalf and son Charles were located on Section 1, below Linn Grove and Metcalf's son-in-law, W. O. Sluyter and Lansing Lewis were living near the present site of Linn Grove.

During the year 1859 the first murder in the county took place near Linn Grove. This man's widow, a Mrs. Enoch Taylor also lived near the Sluyter residence.

The following year Charles A. Lee, brother of William S. Lee came to the county and became prominent in the affairs of the county.

In the spring of 1862 brought the Torkelson

family, who settled on prairie land south and east of town in the Norwegian settlement.

The Hollingsworth family came on a summer day in June and stopped to eat their first meal in the shade of a big willow tree, which has remained a landmark for many years. The family included Michael Hollingsworth "the old Quaker," Isiah Hollingsworth, his son, and his son's wife and their children, and Nurse Hollingsworth, who was said to be the only doctor west of Fort Dodge for years. The family lived for a year in a double log house which had been used for a Fort. In the fall of 1865, they moved to a claim outside of Barnes Township. Here Mr. Hollingsworth and his son would break a few acres and raise what crops the family needed. There was no need to raise more as there was no market for grain or meat until after the railroad came. Charley Hollingsworth was the first white child born in Sioux Rapids. The ford at his place was known as Hollingsworth Ford. The permanent bridge which was thrown across the river was known as Hollingsworth Ford Bridge. Both of these men became leaders in affairs of the county.

Richard Ridgeway came in 1863 and built a sod house where the Farmer home was. This place is now owned by the Jay Bales family. Mr. Bales is owner of the Coast-to-Coast store. Mr. Ridgeway planted a tree in the yard of his home, it grew to be very large and is remembered by many. When the Farmers lived there a big windstorm blew it down.

In the year 1869 Mr. Ridgeway sold his land to D. C. Thomas and David Evans. They at once platted in into town lots. They gave it the name of Sioux Rapids, the name selected sometime before by Luther Barnes. The same year the county seat, which was situated upon Section 7 of Lee Township, was moved to the village of Sioux Rapids and located it on Block 12.

In 1866, an immigrant train of prairie schooners, drawn by oxen brought the L. J. Suckow, Fred Suckow and Henry Steen families to Lee Township. The rest of the party took up land around what is known now as Rembrandt. There were thirty-five people in this group. As soon as they had rested a little from their long journey, they lifted the covered wagon boxes from the wagons and set them permanently on the ground. They had already selected a place near timber and water. At first the Suckows and Steens made camp on the Stennerson's homestead near a spring, while the rest of the party stopped west of Sioux Rapids. Abner Bell and Torkel Torkelson were very helpful in finding suitable places for homes for these people.

Gardner Clough and Louis Clark also came in 1866. John Franklin Clough served in the Civil War. After the war he returned to his family, and in 1866 moved to this county. When Clough entered the army he was well and strong, but





after his long service and constant fatigue, from long marches, his health was poor. The family lived in a sod shanty for the first few years and had to drive to Fort Dodge for supplies. In spite of these hardships, Clough was made supervisor and worked hard to build the community.

It was in 1860 that George Struble and his family moved here from New York. We shall hear more about him later. With Struble came Oliver Moore and Daniel W. Farnham. They came to teach school and were connected with the educational progress of the county for a short time.

1869 brought James M. Hoskins and Henry Jacobson. Mr. Hoskins, who first settled in the country near Pickerel Lake, was elected county recorder in 1870. He sold his farm, and moved to Sioux Rapids, the county seat. He held this office for two years and then entered the Drug Store business. This store was located where the former Cate's Grocery Store stands. Dr. Olney helped in this business. Later Mr. Hoskins disposed of this business in order to establish the Hoskins Toy Bank, which was the first banking institution in town. Mr. Hoskins was very much interested in the affairs of the county.

Henry Jacobson and his bride were believed to be the only ones to have spent their honeymoon on the old Fort Dodge Trail. Upon arriving in Sioux Rapids, Mr. Jacobson, together with John Halverson and Gus Gilbert started the first general store. They were known as the "Three Norwegian Boys." They built the store out of native walnut lumber but went to Fort Dodge for the window frames and shingles. They borrowed tools to work with from Mr. Ridgeway, the car-

penter. The first floor was used for the store, and the second floor for living quarters of the Jacobsons and Gilberts. There was just one large room with a curtain as a division. They used the same stove to cook on, but ate their meals separately. It was in this upstairs room that Stella Jacobson, now Stella Torkelson was born. She was the first white girl born in Sioux Rapids. A little boy was born later to the Gilberts in these same upstairs rooms. Mr. Halverson was not married and he boarded with the two other families. At one time they had over \$1,000.00 worth of furs in the building. A representative from the Hudson Bay Company came to buy the furs. In the early 70's the postoffice was also located in this store.

The nearest railroad was at Fort Dodge, and from that point they had to haul their merchandise with ox-teams. There were but few settlers between Fort Dodge and Sioux Rapids—a distance of about seventy-five miles across the wild prairie, which was intersected by deep sloughs. Often-times all four oxen would have to be put on one load when crossing a bad slough. Sometimes a distance of only four miles would be made in one day. With increasing business the ox teams would be kept busy. The trade came from a wide radius of territory, extending as far as Sac City on the south and Spirit Lake on the north. Prices were quoted as: sugar sold at the rate of five pounds for a dollar, tea at two dollars and a half a pound, coffee at fifty cents per pound, flour at seven dollars per hundred weight, salt at ten dollars per barrel, kerosene at seventy-five cents a gallon, bacon at twenty-five cents per pound, butter at thirty-five cents per pound,



FIRST STORE IN SIOUX RAPIDS—Jacobsen, Halverson & Gilbert—Owners





while calico brought from eighteen to twenty-five cents and all other commodities sold at equally high prices because of the distance to haul it.

Mr. Halverson first withdrew from this partnership and later Mr. Jacobson bought out Mr. Gilbert's interest, while subsequently Mr. Halverson again became the partner of Mr. Jacobson under the firm style of Jacobson & Halverson. They remained in business for about four years and then Mr. Halverson started in business for himself. Mr. Jacobson continued in business until 1882. About two years before this he became interested in another enterprise, that of starting the first creamery in Sioux Rapids.

In 1881 his store and almost his entire stock of goods was destroyed by fire, and he had no place to store his remaining stock.

Yes, it was during these next few years that the migrating farmer and businessman descended upon Sioux Rapids in any vehicle as long as it was a wagon and covered. Often times a girl or a woman guided the mild eyed, soft toed and slow oxen. The journey was long, and these men brought their families, their flocks, dogs and cats curled up and slept in the children's laps. They brought chairs, cane seated rockers, a table turned upside down on the wagon, even family books, pictures, and other knick-knacks. The family Bible, most precious of all was with them

at all times. At night, wagons grouped together near water and fuel. The fire was lighted in preparation for the evening meal. Men unharnessed dusty horses or oxen, and turned them loose in the rich unfenced pastures. The many, happy children liberated from the tiresome journey, roamed through the grass enjoying unlimited play ground. Beds were made up in the wagons, sometimes on the ground when the weather permitted. They were at home on the prairie as the twilight settled into darkness, wolves came slinking, softly near the camp and as their frequent howls were heard the little children snuggled close together in their beds. As sleep came the distant yelp of the coyote shattered the night air. The children grew used to this and slept on. Gay over the prairie came the dawn and the sunsets were unequalled. The nights were magnificent as the moon shone on waves of billowing prairie grass.

Some of these travelers that came over the Fort Dodge Trail stayed in the little Sioux Valley. Others stayed only a short time, soon leaving for places farther on.

We find in 1860 an unofficial census of the whole county was fifty-seven people. The first official census of 1867 gave the total as 151 persons. In 1869, it increased to 242, and in 1870 it was 1,646.

## Early Pioneer Living

The early pioneers were all pretty much the same, all seeking new homes and better living. As one man declared, "there was not a better population on the face of the earth." They were of the best blood and ranked as the strongest and fittest of the whole country. They were young, strong, energetic and adventurous. None were afraid of the dangers of the frontier and extended white man's civilization and protected it from the Indians. The reason only the strongest came was that the weaker class could not have endured the toils, the labors, the pains, and hardships of frontier life. There was always the loneliness too, for as yet there were no railroads and people were far from any line of communication and travel. Later when the stagecoach came, connection with the outside world was improved.

Upon arrival their first thoughts were to select a claim and build a home. Most of the early settlers stopped near the Little Sioux river because there was timber to make log houses and also water. Many missed out on some of the really good land around here for that reason.

The first homes were necessarily very simple. Those that settled in the prairie country where wood was scarce and sod was plentiful built sod houses. This was done by taking a breaking plow

into the lowlands where the sod was heavy and plowing a furrow sixteen or eighteen inches wide. These pieces were cut into lengths perhaps two feet long, which was then laid like brick. The roof was made of rafters covered with prairie hay and this was then covered with long strips of sod. Some of these homes were built a few feet in the ground and often resembled huge gopher mounds.

Those that built log houses were the ones that selected timber lands. In building a log house all the neighbors would gather and help. This was called a "house raising." The walls were made of the straightest logs that could be cut. These were dragged to the building site and measured to the proper length, then "saddled" or "notched" to fit at the ends. These were so skillfully fitted that only small spaces were left between and these were filled with clay often mixed with straw or rushes to hold it together.

The roof was made of clap-boards, cut off from the butt end of a tree. These were laid to overlap. The doors were made of large clapboards spiked with wooden pins to a dovetailed frame. The door was fastened shut by a wooden latch which could be raised from the outside by pulling a leather string. At night the latch string was drawn in for safety, but for friends and neighbors





and even strangers the "latch string was always hanging out" as a token of friendship.

To break five acres of ground was generally recognized as ownership to hold a claim for six months. To build a cabin "eight logs high with a roof" was sufficient to hold the claim for another six months.

Most of these claims could be bought for \$1.25 per acre. When the covered wagon train came that brought the Suckows, Steens, Olsons, Johnsons and Dahls, they found that every odd section was railroad land and every even section was homestead land. Thus homestead land included such sections as 2, 4, 6, 8, etc. As both railroad and homestead land was vacant, it was not hard to make a selection.

The next problem for these pioneer settlers was to make their filings on the claims which they had chosen. Hitching a yoke of oxen to a lumber wagon the entire party of men started for Sioux City. The United States government land office was then located at Sioux City, which was nothing more than a river village, boasting a steam boat landing as its principal claim for distinction.

After two long days of travel by lumber wagon over a trail so poorly marked as to be almost invisible in places, the men arrived in Sioux City and all filed their claims without difficulty.

Returning home, the pioneers proceeded at once to make their homes more comfortable and to fix shelter for their stock. Many built their homes in the corner of their 160 acres that was nearest the center of the section. This made four homes close together. They did this for protection against the Indians.

Ground floors were most common in these early houses and were very hard to keep clean. Blankets were hung in the doorway, until a trip to Fort Dodge could be made to get lumber for a door.

Furniture had to be made out of native wood. Much of this was made out of walnut. We find that today, Emma and Madaline Jacobson have a beautiful bookcase and dresser made from native walnut wood by O. B. Christianson. The wood for these was cut along the Little Sioux River.

The pieces of furniture are still very beautiful and do not even have a scratch or mar on them after being in use all these years.

A large fireplace was generally built in one end of the cabin. Bread was baked in a Dutch oven. Meat and "flap-jacks" were sometimes fried in a long handled pan held over the fire.

In the prairie homes of later period stoves were used instead of fireplaces, for wood and coal was still scarce. The prairie housewife had to burn hay, twisted in a long roll for cooking or heating.

Much went on in these one room cabins, whether made of log or sod. There were three

meals to be prepared every day, clothing to be made, tiny babies to care for, sick people to be nursed. Every task had to be performed in this one room, at least in cold weather.

Even laying out the dead, while waiting for the men to build caskets out of rough lumber took place in these one room cabins.

Wet clothing of the men folks was hung before the fire to dry. Game was frequently dressed indoors and pelts were stretched out to dry in winter. Hay was brought in and twisted and then thrown up in the attic to dry to be burned later.

The pioneer housewife had many things to contend with. Mosquitoes were terrible pests for there was almost no way to combat them. Some of the swampy land was full of them and they would swarm into the houses. It was frequently necessary to start a smudge to smoke them out.

There were also flies, mice, rats and bed bugs. As there were no screens, the flies came from the stables to the house. If shooed away from the food, they would settle on the strings of dried apples or pumpkin or smoked meat hanging from the rafters where it had been drying. Mice and rats persistently invaded the flour barrel or drowned in the milk pans that had been set out so the cream could be skimmed off.

The pioneer woman made her own soap, first she had to secure ashes to make lye, then collect tallow and grease from the meat. When this was boiled together it would produce a substance called soft soap.

Many women spun their own flax and wool to make clothing. In the evenings they would knit stockings for the family. Sometimes mittens would also be knit or made from skins.

Later when a general store was built in Sioux Rapids, calico goods could be bought and Mrs. Fairchild tells us they had a very good assortment of piece goods as well as many beautiful ribbons and laces. This all had to be hauled from Fort Dodge.

In the early days they did not have much variety in their meals. Usually there were corn dodgers, fried pork and coffee. The first years they could not get much land plowed so what they did was planted to squaw corn, turnips, potatoes and beans. The lack of cellars, made it hard to keep these in winter weather. Usually pits were dug and the root crops and cabbages would be placed in there. Sometimes the gophers would dig in these pits and destroy most of a winter's supply.

The Little Sioux River provided many fish, these were sometimes dried or smoked. Wild turkey and venison offered variety in the way of meat.

The woods were usually full of wild plums and wild crab apple and grapes hung in beautiful clusters in the thickets. These were gathered and either dried or made into butter. There was always plenty of gooseberries. These were pick-





ed by the gallons and in the evenings, the whole family would help stem them. Many times wild strawberries could be found. The fragrance of these, ripening in the sun, would be noticeable for a long distance. Wild honey and molasses took the place of candy and sugar. It was great sport for the men to cut down a tree that was filled with honey. And many times they would get stung severely in their efforts to take the honey.

Corn was sometimes shelled and dipped into lye water, hulled and washed and made into hominy.

Walnuts and hazel nuts were found in abundance in the timber along the river and each fall the whole family would gather there and pick up the nuts after the first frost. They were laid out to dry and later hulled to be stored away for the winter.

In December the preparation for winter began in earnest. Pigs were butchered and hams and bacon were salted down or smoked for future use. Wheat was taken to the mill for flour. The miller taking his pay out in grain. Furs and hides would be traded for shoes and clothing.

Butter and eggs would be traded for tea, coffee and sugar. Sometimes cordwood would be delivered in town and given to the doctor for his services.

The men had their grievances, too. Sheds had to be built for livestock. These were generally poles put in the ground and covered with wild hay. Later when threshing machines came into use these sheds were covered with straw and were called "straw sheds." These were usually very warm, but would often times get drifted shut during the winter.

At first cattle, horses and swine ran at large so fences had to be made to keep them out of the gardens and fields. Rail fences were built for this purpose. Cattle were sometimes herded by the children. Usually one old, gentle cow would have a bell tied around her neck, so the cattle could be found if they became lost.

Hogs were turned out to roam in the timber and fatten on nuts that lay thick on the ground. Usually in the spring the sows would be turned

out to farrow and rear their pigs in the thickets. They would retire to the depths of the timber and nature would do the rest. These old sows were some times vicious. It was not safe to go near them when they were bedded down in the brush patch with a litter of pigs. The little pigs provided good eating for wolves. Some sows could fight them off. Old boars were especially good protection against wolves; in fact an angry herd of hogs could make any traveling band of wolves take to the tall timber. It was usually quite a job in the fall to round up a bunch of hogs as by then, they had become quite wild.

The farmer made many of his tools. The heavy breaking plow was the most important. It was very large and crudely made. It had to be of great strength and endurance to tear the rough prairie sod apart. Many used oxen to plow with. One man on the north side of the river only had two horses. He would plow for eight hours with one, and then plow with the other for eight hours. This gave the horses a chance to take turns at resting, for it was hard work. But the man had great courage and worked the full sixteen hours. He was so anxious to get a bit of ground ready to sow his precious seed in order that his family might have food the coming winter.

Oxen were used mostly for breaking sod, because they could live and work better on prairie grass while horse teams, not plentiful, required grain in order to work. Very little grain had as yet been raised, especially corn, which required several years cultivation of soil in order to obtain a good crop. Those that could raise a crop usually had a market at home for everything.

Small grain would be sown by hand from a two bushel bag slung from the shoulder. Corn was planted in gashes cut in the sod with an ax. The ponds and sloughs were a nesting place for all kinds of game as well as millions of blackbirds. The squirrels and gophers were terrible. It was almost impossible to keep them from eating the corn, almost as soon as it was planted.

Generally a small patch of cane was planted in order to have some sorghum and molasses.

In June the prairie grass was ready to cut for



PLEASURE BOAT ON LITTLE SIOUX 1902





hay. After that the small grain was ready to harvest. This was done with a scythe and cradle. During the warm days of Indian summer, the corn would be husked and taken to the mill to be ground for meal and flour.

The winter months were occupied with splitting rails, chopping wood, making furniture and implements, mending harness and oiling them, shelling seed corn, tending livestock and keeping warm.

Taken from an article by Mrs. Robert Watson, she tells of pioneer living, there was always the constant fear of Indians, wolves, prairie fires and whirling blizzards in the winter that so few knew anything about. Just try and picture the bleak prairie that sometimes had been burned off by some careless settler. Wolves caught their chickens in the daytime, carried off little pigs.

Fought the dogs and sometimes killed them and cats too. People driving through would pay fifty cents for a kitten of any color for a pet for the children.

She also told of homesteaders living far apart and one fall her father had to pay 11 cents a bushel to get their small grain threshed. Oxen were used for power and she cried when the driver lashed the sore footed oxen that left blood on the ground. In spite of the many hardships Mrs. Watson always remembers her mother's shining teakettle and how quickly she could make a cup of tea for unexpected company.

Sioux Rapids has always been noted for its hospitality and the way it extends a welcome hand to a stranger. This hospitality started from the very beginning and still continues down through the years.

## Law and Order

The only settlement in the county in 1856, as we have said before, was at Sioux Rapids, before the county was organized, it being attached to Woodbury county for judicial purposes, with Judge A. W. Hubbard acting judge for Woodbury County. He appointed a committee consisting of D. C. Early of Sac City, John Kindlespeyer of Clay County, and Mr. Sauter to lay out a county seat. They selected a spot about a mile southeast from the present site of Sioux Rapids, which consisted of ten acres of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 18 of Lee township. This was called "Prairieville" and later "Leesburg."

The old maps show it "Prairieville" and that was the only name it bore in an official way. No court house was ever erected, and but few buildings ever graced the site. W. S. Lee built a log house on the place and this was used for a building to hold religious services, for county official purposes and as a court house.

It was in the fall of 1857 that Mr. Barnes laid out the town and called it Sioux Rapids. Some say he named it for the Sioux Indians and from the rapids in the river which was noticeable in high water. Others say he just plain liked the name "Sioux Rapids."

Then the county was organized in 1858, the first election held that fall.

In 1860, George Struble opened a hotel about a mile east of the present site. Struble's cabin was not the first hotel in town, for William Swiford built the first one. It is said that Struble acquired his land from a well known Indian called "Feather-in-the-Lake." The 160 acre tract of land was located just outside of the limits of Sioux Rapids.

The Struble House was well known from Fort Dodge to Sioux City as it was the only place travelers could be accommodated. Struble kept

a light in the east window each night to guide travelers coming from that way. The house was built of logs, two stories high. The lower floor was divided in two rooms, a guest chamber for travelers or visitors and a large, cheerful family living room. It was roughly furnished, but was the most pretentious place in the county. The county court convened in the living room for five years, and court regularly adjourned so Mrs. Struble could set the table and serve a meal, cooked in the adjoining kitchen. Anyone around including the judge, and court members, as well as the plaintiff, defendant and any witness drew up and ate together.

The board of supervisors also met here, and the frontier circuit rider held religious services on one Sunday of each month here.

The door was fastened with a huge log chain and the windows had primitive shutters of walnut, tough and strong enough to withstand a siege if necessary.

As yet there were no railroads, and people were far from any line of communication and travel except by stagecoach.

The stagecoach stopped at the Struble House. On its arrival there would always be a crowd on hand for news from the outside world.

The log house gave way to a frame house which was used for many years for a hotel. Struble's Hotel was known far and wide for its hospitality. Soon it became the leading hostelry of the region. In its office or "bar room" many political meetings, at which the destinies of the county were settled and the schemes that were framed there controlled the county absolutely.

Abner Bell began to take an interest in the affairs of the county and was elected county clerk. Since the county had no court house and Bell did not wish the Struble home to be the





permanent meeting place, he had a sod house built and invited the Board of Supervisors to make this their court house.

It was fourteen feet square and seven feet high. He moved into it, made himself a bed of poles and willow boughs, made a straw mattress, and used his buffalo robe for covering. He also got a stove so he could make pancakes and was thus independent.

The place was pretty crowded, some times, but Bell had boxes and nail kegs to sit on. The Board of Supervisors brought their dinners with them. They always adjourned for dinner, at which Bell mixed up his batter and made himself a meal of pancakes. If any of the officers forgot their lunch, they would steal Bell's pancakes about as fast as he could bake them, when his back was turned.

County officials in 1859 hired some men to survey the swamp lands. After sixteen days of work, they sent in their report. However, Bell stated that, "during the time the men were supposed to be at work locating the swamp lands they were in fact lying in camp on a hill near Sioux Rapids, drinking whiskey, playing poker and telling stories. Bell hurried to Peterson and had a lawyer draw up a written protest. Then mounting his horse, he rode almost day and night in hope of beating the surveyors report to Des Moines. There is no actual record to show whether he was successful or not but apparently he was for no lands were patented to the county then or later.

Some time afterward in 1861, W. S. Lee investigated the matter. John Cofer had then offered to buy all the swamp land in the county in return for a contract to build a court house.

It was nearly twenty years later in 1882 that the swamp land deal was straightened out.

The officers that were elected in 1858, later upon organization of the county, at once assumed

their duties and one of the first acts was to levy a six mill tax for roads and bridges, which brought in about two hundred dollars in 1859. It was needed badly as the county had not a bridge or a road.

In January 1869 the county seat was re-located in the village and a court house was contracted for in Block 12.

In 1870 Hubbard Sanderson was treasurer; Ole Johnson, auditor; O. H. Dahl, clerk of courts; O. H. Storla, recorder; and Ryan Hard, sheriff. The work of these officers was conducted in their homes.

The treasurer, Hubbard Sanderson, had his office in his home several miles from Sioux Rapids by the river near the Clay County line. He lived on what is known as the Eve Thomas place. It was while he lived there that he had an office in a small room, built to his home. The books and the money of the county was kept in a small desk, which was ordered years before when in the writing of Abner Bell, clerk of the board, it was noted that an order was made for Richard Ridgeway to make two desks.

The ancient desk was broken open by someone who forced his way into Sanderson's office and all the funds of the county were stolen. Something over three thousand, seven hundred and eighteen dollars and nineteen cents being taken. The county then purchased a new safe for eleven hundred dollars.

Ole Johnson, the auditor, had his office in his home more than two miles southwest of Sioux Rapids. O. H. Dahl, clerk of courts, had his office at his home one mile south of Johnsons, and O. H. Storla, county recorder, had his office in his home half a mile southeast of Dahl's. That home was a one-roomed cave covered with earth and poorly lighted. The family, which included several children lived in that room, the recorder's



THE OLD SWIMMING HOLE





records were kept there, the recording was done there and the records were inspected to trace title or for other purposes in the same place. This condition continued with little change until a substantial courthouse was built in Sioux Rapids.

During the years 1869 to 1870 a number of horses were stolen in and about Sioux Rapids. The situation became so unbearable that the settlers determined to take matters in their own hands. A meeting was called at the Red School House north of Sioux Rapids and a Vigilance Committee was organized with Samuel Mills, president; David Watts, vice-president; Peter Dubois, treasurer; and J. J. Duroe, secretary. Large hand bills were ordered and posted, bearing the inscription,

#### "HORSE THIEVES BEWARE"

The charter members were Samuel Mills, David Watts, Ephriam Sands, Peter Dubois, J. P. Mills, John Jones, Samuel W. Mills, Robert Jones, J. J. Duroe, Jesse E. Mills and W. J. Cinther, nearly all of these lived in the south part of Clay County, near Sioux Rapids.

Whenever a horse was stolen it was the duty of the Committee to leave his usual work at once and travel at his own expense in search of the thief.

The second meeting was held at the Struble Hotel October 5, 1870 and additional members were admitted, who were Abner Bell, T. G. Thomas, John Tancher, Francis Kidman, James Halkney, David Evans, John Watts, R. W. Thomas, Stephen Dubois, Thomas Evans, Gust Gilbert, John Halverson and others.

The Society had nothing to do for almost nine years, but in 1879 a horse belonging to O. G. Tabor was stolen. Another meeting was called at the Struble Hotel and more members were admitted. They were Daniel Tillett, G. W. Struble, Knudt Stennerson, O. G. Tabor, J. M. Hoskins, S. Olney, Sr., and Charles Cuthbert. It was never known whether Mr. Tabor got his horse back or not.

The first term of court was held in G. W. Struble's log house and the grand jury met in the corn crib. William Lee and J. M. Hoskins were members of the first grand jury. There was little use for a grand jury, for the only crime was a charge of larceny against a boy who had stolen a pocket knife. They worked four days on the case. Judge Henry Ford of Sioux City was presiding and District Attorney Orson Rice of Spirit Lake. Other attorneys present were the three members of the local bar, probably Wilson and Dye of Sioux City and possibly two or three others. After hearing all the evidence in the case Judge Ford sent the young man to the reform school for a short time. When the court adjourned the bar, jurors, witness and all who remained would gather around the big table and play poker.

The population was increasing and all felt the need for a courthouse, but found it difficult to agree on the building. In 1869 a contract was let for the first courthouse. In 1871 M. W. Condrom, the contractor, erected the building at cost of about five thousand dollars. It was 26 by 36 feet, two stories high with three rooms downstairs, a hall and two stairways. On the second floor was a courtroom and several small offices.

The courthouse attracted much attention and much legal work. It was natural to organize the Buena Vista County Bar Association which took place in Sioux Rapids. Seven attorneys participated, two from Sioux Rapids, two from Newell and three from Storm Lake. J. E. Wirick was chosen president and G. S. Robinson, secretary. Mr. Robinson had been a prospector and was so pleased with the county he decided to return to Sioux Rapids in 1870 and practice law. He found two members of his profession already here. One, R. E. Burns had been a gallant soldier in the Union army and bore the marks of severe wounds received in battle. He soon became discouraged and left that autumn. The other lawyer, D. C. Thomas, remained in Sioux Rapids until about the year 1878 when he went to Watertown, South Dakota, where he became prominent in county and state affairs.

The south half of the county was settling up fast and felt that the courthouse should be re-located there.

The matter slumbered for four years and in 1876 it was again brought up and again defeated. Then on the first day of January, 1877, a cold, bitter day, the courthouse burned to the ground and with it all of the records save those of the board of supervisors. Mrs. Fairchild says she can still remember the fire. Her mother wrapped her in a blanket and she sat in the window until 4



"THE WEAVER TWINS"

Children of Mr. and Mrs. William Weaver—First Twins  
Born in Buena Vista County





o'clock in the morning to watch it. It was necessary to pump their well dry to secure water to help put out the fire.

A motion to rebuild was lost and the board of supervisors rented temporary quarters for the officials. Later in the year a small building was bought for use of the county officials, court being held in the school house.

In the spring of 1878 another petition was presented that the court house be at Storm Lake. A vote was taken and it was decided that the court house be moved. A delegation was provided with numerous refreshments of temperate character for a social gathering to which the citizens of Sioux Rapids were invited and which they attended. Some of them volunteered to help with the removal. The board of supervisors, on the 14th day of October, 1878 A.D., declared Storm Lake to be the county seat and the next day the records and other property of the county were moved to Storm Lake without cost to the county. Thus the long contest ended with much better feeling than expected. Of course Sioux Rapids resented the removal for awhile, but they were not the sort to sit down and mourn over something that could not be helped.

They at once set about to build a good town and how well they succeeded may be seen in the beautiful little town on the banks of the Little Sioux river.

Twenty-six years after Abner Bell came to the

county, a meeting was held in the offices of Hoskins and Toy, Bankers, and the first steps were taken to incorporate the town.

The first officers elected in 1882 were J. M. Hoskins, mayor; Thomas H. Pittman, recorder; John Halverson, P. W. Goodrich, B. F. Swan, Henry Jacobson, George Thompson and H. D. Smith, councilmen; S. A. Hartman, marshal; and J. E. Carter, street commissioner.

The first pioneer business firms were as follows:

Shoe Shop.....	Lars Suckow
Hotels.....	Geo. Struble and W. S. Lee
Creamery.....	Henry Jacobson
Gen. Merchandise.....	Gilbert, Halverson and Jacobson
Furniture.....	B. O. Christianson
Lawyer.....	D. C. Thomas
Doctor.....	D. S. Olney (first in the county)
Photographer.....	Clive Reynolds
Newspaper.....	D. C. and W. R. Thomas
Tailor.....	Hans Johnson
Blacksmith.....	David Evans and P. A. Jacobson
Jeweler.....	Bronson
Hardware.....	Paulson and Bronson
Drug Store.....	J. M. Hoskins and Dr. Olney
Postmaster.....	Gust Gilbert
Butcher Shop.....	Ransom and Sandercock
Gen. Merchandise.....	George Hanson

## Those Golden Rule Days

As the first principal settlement in Buena Vista County, Sioux Rapids had a school as early as 1856, on the northwest corner of Section 12-92-37. This schoolhouse was later moved to a place about a half a mile south and was used here as a school until the county was divided into townships in 1869. The first Independent School District was formed here in 1870, an event of which history says, "The district was formerly composed of a part of Lee Township, but the independent district included with this also a part of Barnes

Township.

The forming of the district in this way was vigorously opposed by those living across the river who favored a district including the town only. There were several residents across the river who would add materially to the strength of the school if the district could be made to extend over their territory. The townspeople saw this, so they wrote up their proceedings, sent them to the legislature, and had them legalized and published as a law before the residents



SIoux RAPIDS MILL AND DAM





across the river were scarcely aware of what happened. Thus the district composes a part of Lee and a part of Barnes Townships."

In September, 1878, an addition of one room was built to the school house. A. S. Newcombe was the first teacher employed. "When the additional room was added, Mrs. Newcombe was employed as a teacher for that room. The first school board was made up of S. S. Wainer, H. Jacobson and James Hoskins.

The aims of education were few in those days. All that a child should know, except pure book learning, was taught at home.

The regular elementary curriculum consisted of reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling and geography. Discipline was strict and moral precepts were emphasized.

With the coming of the C. & N.W. railroad in 1882 and the consequent increase in population, a large building of four rooms was erected in 1883, costing \$6,500. While this was being constructed, the Methodist Church was used for school sessions. The teacher was Bantina Hanson.

This new school building served the needs of the school until 1898, and in the summer of that year an addition was erected and a new steam heating plant was installed.

This wooden structure served the community many years, until replaced in 1915 by the present brick building. This school building stands at the top of a hill, near the edge of town, from which can be obtained an excellent view of the town, the river beyond and the surrounding country. Coming down Highway 71 an equally beautiful view of the schoolhouse, high on a hill, can be seen as one approaches Sioux Rapids.

There were several one room country schools in use in the nearby community in the early day. These will be remembered by many and what fun the children had.

These little, white school houses were mostly located on the corner of some farm. There was a space of about an acre of ground for the children to play in.

The teacher boarded in the neighboring homes, a while in one, and then moved on to the next place. There were no school buses, both teacher and pupils walked to school. When the snow filled the roads, all the neighbors would get together and help open it by driving through it with a team and sled or perhaps drive a herd of cattle through it. Many were the snow forts the children would build on the school grounds. The spring thaws always brought great joy, for sometimes the ditches along the road would fill with water, and then a cold night would make skating good nearly all the way to school. Many were the snowball fights on the way to and from school.

After the big snows and thaws, the grass and flowers would burst forth. The girls loved to

pick huge bouquets of violets and other early flowers for a favorite teacher. The boys would find new joy in making bows and arrows. Sap rose in the willow trees and every one made whistles of all sizes and tones.

The school house consisted of just one room, sometimes a small addition for a cloak room. A huge, black, stove stood in one corner, it cooked those near it, and the ones in the far end were often allowed to move nearer to get warm. Everyone drank from a dipper from an old, tin pail. Hands were washed in a rusty old basin. It was a special favor to go after water for the teacher, and more fun if she would permit two to go. Often in the winter the dipper would freeze fast in the pail. Sometimes the youngsters lunch would freeze and have to be thawed out. Lunch was carried in a gallon syrup pail. Sandwiches were made with jelly or apple butter as a spread.

Two pupil seats were used and punishment was great if you were caught whispering. Much of the school work was done on a slate and with a slate pencil. Blackboards were used and what fun it was to clean the erasers and wash the blackboards on a Friday afternoon, so it would be nice and clean for the coming week.

In winter, when youngsters played in the snow, leggings, mittens, and overshoes had to be dried near the stove.

All sizes, big and little boys and girls were taught in the country schools. Many of the boys



LITTLE COUNTRY SCHOOL NEAR SIOUX RAPIDS



SIOUX RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL





had to work during the spring and summer months and could only attend school in the winter months. It was not uncommon to see boys of eighteen and twenty attending school where only the eight grades were taught. Sometimes these boys really gave the teacher a rough time. They would see that a mouse would jump out of the teacher's desk, if she happened to be afraid of them. Or they would turn a garter snake loose in the school room. Great was their joy if they could get "mama skunk and her babies" out from under the coal house. How the girls would run and yell. Oft-times the bigger boys would chew tobacco and smoke cigarettes behind the school house. In the school room some times, the paper wads would fly thick and fast. The ceiling would be dotted with them. Then again if the teacher could win the boys over on her side they proved to be a big help in building fires in the mornings. In real early days slough hay was twisted for burning. This was done by the youngsters at noon and recess.

Each school had a flagpole and the "Stars and Stripes" would wave in the breeze from these.

Sometimes on Friday afternoons the teacher's boy friend came in a spanking new buggy and a frisky horse to take her home for the weekend. Excitement was high on occasions like this.

Favorite games were "pump, pump, pull away," "London bridge is falling down," "drop the handkerchief" and "Ante-over." This was played by dividing up and standing on opposite sides of the school house, throwing a ball over the roof. When one caught it all ran to the other side. The side that captured the most won.

The school house served more than a place to educate the barefoot pupils. It provided a place for the folks to gather and hold spelling bees, box socials and revival meetings. Literary Societies and Debating teams were very popular. Quilting bees afforded a means of social recreation for women and girls alone, but the husking bees brought both sexes together for a good time. Finding a red ear meant kisses all around and some times young men would take an underhand

advantage, by secretly passing a red ear from one to the other. After the corn was all husked the floor was cleared, the "fiddle" was brought out, and the merry-makers danced until the eastern sky began to show signs of the coming dawn, when each boy on horseback, with his girl behind him set out for home.

Dancing was probably the most popular of social recreations, although men enjoyed wrestling, foot racing, ball games and horse races.

Wonderful days, those. It makes me sad to think they have passed, but happy to know that I have lived part of them.

While the country children were going to school in the little one room school buildings, the town children were also making much progress, with their school work.

The first teachers institute was held in Sioux Rapids, on December 12, 1870, with fifty-two persons in attendance. A teachers' association was formed on December 16, 1870, with J. D. Adams as president. Mr. Adams was from Alta, and was prominent in early educational circles.

The first graduating class in Sioux Rapids was in 1890, and its members were Emma Jacobson, Winifred Sanderson, Mary Ney, Luella Hoskins, Wallace Bennett, Wallace Struble, Charley Hoskins, and George Frazee.

Mrs. Nellie Pratt Duroe, who is still living here, was one of the early teachers of the Sioux Public Schools.

In 1912 several fine carriages or school buses were added. These were drawn by horses and were built by N. C. Simonsons. One of the drivers of these was Almer Osmundsons.

The first football team was in 1906 with John Kidman, Harry Burkholder, Julius Osmundson, Ira Gabrielson, Roy Dubois, Guy Gabrielson, Morley Cate, Charley Gustafson, Mitch Guthrie, Raymond Buland, Art Cady, Geo. Farmer, Carl Rosell, Ernie Williams and Clyde Cate on the team. Frank Parker, Manager.

Don Eiler was coach of the first Indian football squad. Then in 1908 some of the school boys fitted up a gymnasium in one of the down town



SIoux RAPIDS BAND—1905







Back Row: Fannie Cuthbert, Mamie Stevens, Mable Buland. Second Row: Glenora Helsell, Mattie Clifford, Mable Durow, Jennie Cuthbert and Nora Osmundson. Bottom Row: Laura Agnew, Anna Collins. Teacher: Louetta Stevens, absent from picture.



DAHL SCHOOL 1889—Teachers May Thompson and Marion Ray







**FIRST SIOUX RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM—1906**

**Top Row:** John Kidman, Henry Burkholder, Julius Osmundson, Ira Gabrielson, Roy Dubois.

**Middle Row:** Guy Gabrielson, Morley Kate, Charley Gustafson, Frank Parker, Captain, Ernest Williams, Clyde Cate.

**Bottom Row:** Penningroth, Buland and Art Cady

buildings. This was probably the first place the boys had to play in.

The first county superintendent was Modecai S. Jameson, who received in the election, a total of ten votes while his opponent, A. Cook, received five votes. The record of the election of Jameson is clear but no information is given of his ever serving in the office. This must be presumed as the next information we have of a county superintendent shows that in 1861 Abner Bell acted in this capacity, serving also as Treasurer and Recorder.

Jameson seems to have been elected in 1858 and served until Bell took charge three years later. The first official to give his time to the one office alone seems to have been O. H. Storla who was elected county superintendent in 1866, serving for two years.

The minutes of the board of supervisors in 1866 indicate that there was a tax levy of two and one half mills levied for a teacher's fund and two mills for a contingent fund.

In 1875, Brooke township had three schools, Barnes four and Lee had four. The county superintendent at that time was Jacob Davis, who

served from 1872 to 1876. F. A. Blake followed O. H. Storla, serving just one year and following him was J. D. Adams, who served two years. Our present superintendent is A. E. Harrison.

The school house built in 1883, continued in use until the district consolidated in 1914 and a fine new building was dedicated in 1915. It cost \$65,000. This new structure is located on the site of the old frame building and has served the district well to this day. The school is a good one with a fine program of education and athletics and the citizens take an active interest in its function.

A reunion of the class of 1927 was held August 22, 1954, and a two course dinner was served to forty-two. The valedictorian and salutatorian of the 1927 class, Mrs. Ward Gottschall and Miss Hazel Doyle presided at the tea table.

Lars Nydahl ended twenty years of service as janitor in 1954. Mr. Nydahl started work as janitor with Neil Johnson and worked under four superintendents, Griewe, Boone, Hamand and Parks. He states they had the best gymnasium in 1935, and he has seen two new floors laid there.







EARLY SCHOOL BUSES—HORSE-DRAWN

Two new boilers have been installed in his twenty years as janitor.

The business men of Sioux Rapids gave each kindergarten child in the trade area a silver dollar at the beginning of the 1950 school term.

One of the largest school elections ever held cast their ballots on March 15, 1950 with 489 voters turning out.

The school enrollment for the year 1951-52 was 301 pupils, for 1952-53 was 324 pupils, for 1953-54 was 321 pupils and nearly the same number for the 1954-55 term.

Coach Carl Zender received the "Coach of the Year Award" in the 1951-52 season.

Voters of Sioux Rapids school district defeated the proposal of issuing \$200,000 in bonds for the purpose of building a new addition to the present building at an election held November 9, 1954. A second election was held Dec. 16, and it was also defeated.

Fire drill was made by request of the fire department in connection with fire prevention week. Three hundred students and faculty members emptied the three-story building in less than two minutes.

Chosen from more than one hundred entrants and thirty-three voice finalists Janice Ingram was announced winner of Station KAYL 1954 "Voice of Democracy" contest. She also appeared in the All-State Band which is held as a part of the annual meeting of the Iowa Musical Education Association.

The Centennial school year has Mrs. McBride, Mrs. Olson and Mrs. Lewis in charge of the Hot Lunch program. Meals are served at the cost of twenty-five cents per meal, this means a reduction of five cents per meal. Custodians are George Hurlless and George Krohn. The faculty is as follows: E. L. Parks, Supt., Physics; Lyle McKercher, Prin., driver's training, Math and Science; Inez Fortune, English and Dramatics; Robert Moore, Coach, History and Manual

Training; Leslie Cornwell, Music; Verla Mae Huston, Home Economics and Shorthand; Dean Aschim, Commercial; Mrs. Iva Grey, Junior High; Keith Palmer, Junior High; Joy Kurtz, Sixth Grade; Mrs. Marjil Fahan, Fifth Grade; Dorothy Anderson, Fourth Grade; Nancy Saunders, Third Grade; Mrs. Rachel Ashim, Second Grade; Mrs. Bernice Johnson, First Grade; Mrs. Beatta Orsland, Kindergarten. The bus drivers are Jess Remillard, Art Johnson, George Krohn and Keith Palmer.

The present school board consists of Glen Ingram, D. E. Endersby, Ivan Thompson, C. F. Kischer and D. W. Fernau. The secretary is Mrs. Luella Bradley.

Members of the 1955 Centennial Graduating Class are as follows: Rosalie Johnson, Jean McDanel, Faye Francis, Jo Ellen Junkermeier, Colleen Olson, Doris Tollakson, Janice Ingram, Rosanna Thompson, Marcia Hanson, Kathleen Kas, Joan Simonsen, Miriam Hanson, Corlyss Sundblad, Donald Edwardson, Richard Herrig, Gary Halverson, Frank Pierce, David Orsland, Walter Grey, Terry Brugman, Gary Mays and Eddie Antle.

Yes, Sioux Rapids has come a long ways since the days of the one room school house. There is no lack of education and school facilities here. Almost any subject any one would want to take is offered. It has hot lunches, and its Home Economics class covers many subjects. It has excelled many times in music and sports. It would take many pages to cover in detail the many interesting developments of education of the public school here in Sioux Rapids. We are proud to write that it continues to seek bigger and better things to further the education of our children.

Sioux Rapids has a very interesting night school too. It was started some five or six years ago. Lloyd Hadenfelt and some of the other men around town had been going to night school at







THE CUBS BASEBALL CLUB, 1928—SIOUX RAPIDS, IOWA—WON 17, LOST 0

Back Row: A. S. Henry, A. G. Johnson, L. Carris, E. Larsen, A. B. Snyder, O. A. Hoskins, R. R. Burr, Dr. F. E. Anderson, F. R. Taylor, Mayor R. O. Green, W. D. McPherson, C. L. Sipe, G. A. Thompson, J. Fagan, C. Spavin, D. I. isbet.

Second Row: W. Brownlee, L. Altizer, J. A. Meadows, C. Marsh, O. E. Mogster, E. C. Larsen, J. P. Winters, J. W. Lopour, G. S. Cate.

Third Row: W. C. Wood, A. Bakken, W. Remillard, L. Sinclair, Manager, H. Dodge, Captain, H. Olson, A. Nielsen, Holland, R. Mogster, O. Mogster, M. Remillard, Dr. A. J., R. Gibson, H. George, C. Nowning, I. P. Davidson.

Front Row: A. Turnquist, E. M. Duroe, H. Wilbur, R. Williams, D. Sipe, L. Vaught, A. Johnson, D. Johnson, Mascot, F. Gibson, D. Spavin, Dr. T. W. Swallum, I. Johnson, C. Smith, A. I. Pollock, F. D. White.

Spencer, and they decided to try and organize one here. They met in the Library Building and elected Lloyd Hadenfelt as the first president. It was decided to have about ten lessons each year. The first attendance was around 35, with an average of 25. The usual farm topics were discussed. Speakers were invited to give lectures that were very helpful. C. W. Dahlby, County Agent and Ed Crocker, Soil Conservationist, were a great help in getting Night School started. Lloyd Hadenfelt was the first president, Or-

ville Becker the second president and Junior Halverson the third president. This farm school was discontinued and classes for both men and women were held with a choice of subjects. Some of the classes were: sewing, knitting, crocheting, typing, leather tooling and carving, bridge, driver training, photography, self-improvement, bookkeeping, law and several others. These classes have proved successful with the adults. Over 85 attended last year. The three to head the 1955 session are Charles Gustafson, Cordelia Johnson and Mrs. Harold Chesley.

## Remember the Sabbath

The pioneers that came to the Little Sioux valley lived out in the open air much of the time, and the relation of man and nature was looked upon with an open mind. Of course, their thoughts were more on "getting on" in this world than upon an immortal crown. But being close to nature they were also close to God. One lovely lady told us that she believed that God watched over these early pioneers in a sort of special way, or they never could have endured the hardships that they had to. But from their recollections we learn that in the silent forest, out on the broad prairie, in the deep blue sky, in the solitude of the night, in the sunshine, in the storm, in the rosy dawn, in the golden sunset, and in the daily trials and battles of frontier life they saw and felt the Infinite.

At first there was no church edifice or resident

preacher, and little to betoken the progress that had been made. Services were held in a cabin, in a store, or often in God's great outdoors, perhaps in the shade of a gnarled oak tree, or on the banks of a stream. Simplicity and fervor were, indeed, the most marked characteristics of many of the early meetings.

A strolling preacher reasoned of righteousness, repentance and judgment. Probably, no class of men on the frontier suffered more privations and hardships than the pioneer preachers and priests. They made long circuits to reach their appointments, driving or riding horseback through the heat and rains in the summer, shoveling their way through snow drifts in winter, or dragging wearily through mud in the early spring. One man said, "that he could read his sermon by the light of a prairie fire, while traveling the distance







SIOUX RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL FIRST GRADUATING CLASS—JUNE, 1890

Men: Charles Hoskins, Wallace Struble, Wallace Bennett, George Frazee, Prof. J. E.

Ladies: Emma Jacobson, Minnie Sanderson, Mary Ney, Luella Fairchild

of twelve miles." There was always the fear of wandering bands of Indians, too. The best paid ones only received a small amount, and many of them helped support themselves and their families by other work.

These circuit riders came to Sioux Rapids every now and then, and often stopped at the pretentious cabin of George Struble. This community place of worship was usually crowded. Everyone gathered there and sat on boxes, nail kegs, benches, or on the floor. They sang the lovely old hymns and thanked God for the many privileges granted them.

As a rule the circuit rider had very little money and a scanty supply of clothing. At one time an exhorter appeared before the congregation at the Struble home, dressed in shirt and trousers, with-

out shoes, collar or coat. Such deficiencies did not hamper his thought process or his manner of delivery, however, for he could preach powerful sermons. Once after he pronounced the benediction he exclaimed, "Well, Brother Thomas, I preached for all there was in it, didn't I?"

On another occasion, the sum of twenty dollars was raised for the preacher's salary, and in order to determine who should make up the deficiency needed, all of the brethren gathered at a table and settled the matter in a poker game. Struble lost, and he was obliged to pay all the money to the minister who perhaps well knew how the difficulty had been met. But the conscience was not so tender in those days, and the money was not refused for fear it might be tainted.

Whenever a group of people of the same re-



NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH







CATHOLIC CHURCH AND PARSONAGE

ligion get together it is not long before they take steps to build a new church. As time went on, the prairie sod was being turned under and more and more crops were planted and harvested, while in towns, or at suitable sites between, new homes, churches and schools were built. As the seasons came and went, the people toiled week days in the fields, and on Sundays braved the sun or blistering winds to travel miles to the nearest church.

It was a point of honor, too, to go regularly to Sunday school, no matter how far the children might have to trudge through slush and dust, sometimes barefoot; they never knew what it was to wear overshoes because they had none to wear.

There were many good times, too, for there were Sunday School picnics along the Little Sioux river and boating for those who cared for it.

The story is told of how the first Methodist

minister stopped at a place on his way from Fort Dodge. Now this house keeper wasn't the cleanest person in the world and her house was not much better. But she was a gracious person and welcomed him to stay. It was still thirty-five miles to Sioux Rapids and night was drawing near so he thought he had better stay. It might prove better than sleeping out on the open prairie. As supper time drew near and the housewife was so anxious to please, so she asked the minister how he wanted his 'taters cooked, he said, "with the skins on." Then she asked, "how he liked his eggs" and he replied, "with the shells on." At this point she exclaimed, "Oh you Yankees, you have to have every thing cooked with the skins on." The poor minister was just trying to make sure his food was clean without embarrassing her.

It was from this background came the churches that now serve the needs of the community.



METHODIST CHURCH





## THE NORWEGIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in Sioux Rapids May 11, 1871. C. W. Johnson was the first leader. Some of the other officers were: Svend Pederson, Ole T. Dahl, Peter Johnson, O. Storla, H. Storla, Peter Jacobson and Ole Halvorson. A. P. Aasered was the first minister.

Services were held in homes, in the court house and in the school house. It was not until 1882 that the first church was built. The church celebrated its 80th anniversary in October, 1951. During this period of time over 600 persons have been confirmed. There has been a large number also confirmed in the last four years.

Rev. K. G. Hatlen, pastor of the First Lutheran Church for 27 years, was one of the speakers at the celebration. Dr. J. N. Brown, former president of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, delivered the anniversary sermon. Dr. Brown was born in Sioux Rapids.

Some of the early ministers of the church were Reverends A. P. Aasered, Amon Johnson, P. Matson, H. O. Helmers, and Henry Noss.

Rev. G. C. Knutson, now of Austin, Minnesota, did much to help the growth of the church.

The present pastor of the Lutheran Church is Rev. L. H. Shaw. He came to Sioux Rapids in 1953. Rev. Hatlen has retired and lives in Sioux Rapids. He still helps out in much of the church work. The church has a large Ladies Aid membership and also many of the young people belong to Luther League.

In the past year an addition was built on the present building providing new class rooms and a remodeled kitchen and fireside room. Much of this work was done by the members of the church. Shortly before this a new electric organ was installed.

## THE METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church at Sioux Rapids really dates back to 1859 when Rev. O. S. Wright of Cherokee preached a sermon at the home of Luther Barnes. In 1864 Rev. Seymour Snyder made trips to the settlement on the Little Sioux River and preached at the home of G. W. Struble and W. S. Lee. There is no record of meetings held until 1872 when Rufus Tancher was appointed to supply the Sioux Rapids charge. In 1873, J. S. Zeigler was sent, followed by C. W. Wiley. Rev. L. B. Keeling came next, and Seymour Snyder returned in 1876. It was during this time the first church was erected at the cost of \$1,700. Some of the following ministers were: Revs. William McCready, Rufus Tancher, O. H. P. Taus, A. S. Bube, W. J. Suckow, J. C. Bascom, E. L. Moore, Z. C. Bradshaw, C. H. Hawn, F. S. Joray, Joseph Jeffrey, S. P. Marsh, J. E. Ed-

wards, H. D. Trimble, H. W. L. Mahood, C. E. Matteson, Henry Albertson, S. H. Turbeville, Bartz, Hoon, Brand, Proett, Kimbell and J. T. Snyder.

The Methodists have never been without a minister for 91 years.

The people solicited money enough to buy the first church bell in Sioux Rapids. They sent to Blymer Brothers at Cincinnati, Ohio, for it. This was used as a church bell, a school bell, and it rang for fires, rang the old year out and the new year in. It also tolled for every funeral. This bell was kept till the new church was built. No one is quite sure where it is now but it was used last at Cornell.

On January 12, 1913, the present church was dedicated. Bishop Frank M. Bristol preached the first sermon in the new church.

On February 5, 1950, special services were held for the dedication of the new memorial organ installed in the church. It was the first electric organ to be installed in a Sioux Rapids church.

The Sunday school, missionary societies, Epworth League as well as the church are all in flourishing condition.

Mrs. Josephine Snyder has been a member of the aid for 59 years.

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

On November 4, 1875, a council of pastors and delegates from neighboring churches met in the school house at Sioux Rapids and organized the Congregational Church.

Being satisfied there was a need here for a church, Rev. Ephriam Adams, Rev. W. J. Smith and Rev. W. L. Coleman participated in the recognition service. At this time twelve people presented themselves as charter members.

In 1881, while Rev. A. M. Beaman was pastor, the first church was erected. From 1881 to 1950 there has been 18 pastors. Rev. V. R. Willey, the present minister, came when Rev. Orcutt left.

Some of the early ministers were Revs. Smith, A. M. Beaman, E. P. Hughes, W. C. Hicks, Hand, T. C. Walker, Burns, J. K. Nutting, Fisk, Ira Holbrook, R. T. Jones and C. N. Martin.

In 1908 during the depression the Ladies Aid saved pennies to buy a communion table for the church.

Rev. J. K. Nutting came to Sioux Rapids in 1897. He was the founder of the Little Brown Church of Nashua. The second Congregational church was built in 1889 under the leadership of W. C. Hicks. On December 11, 1927, this old land mark was destroyed by fire. On May 13, 1928, cornerstone of the present structure was laid and on September 16, 1928, it was dedicated. Nearly 250 people participated in the 75th anniversary program on November 4, 1950.





## THE BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1881, the Baptist Church had its beginning in Sioux Rapids, when Rev. V. Bloodgood came from Spencer and organized the society with about twelve members.

Rev. Bloodgood came to Sioux Rapids every other Sunday to conduct services in a school house in the country. In 1884 the present church building, which also was the first one, was erected. The parish flourished for awhile, and the membership decreased until the church building was sold to the Evangelical Faith Lutheran Church Synod which was established in 1949.

Rev. L. D. Russert is the present pastor. He also serves the Concordia Lutheran Church at Webb.

## THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

The Seventh Day Adventists of Sioux Rapids organized themselves on the 20th day of August, in the year 1902, when twenty members signed for membership.

Their first building was a portable tabernacle, which was erected following their organization. This was their meeting place till 1907, when it was taken down and replaced by their present wooden frame building.

## THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Joseph's Catholic Church was built in 1886 but remained a mission church until July, 1947, when it was officially established as a parish with Father Leo Harpenau as its first resident pastor.

The present fine brick church was dedicated

October 4, 1949, and the rectory was completed the same year. This new church was built at the cost of \$24,000. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered for the first time in the new church on October 12, 1947. The Sacrament of Baptism was administered for the first time in the new church on October 19, 1947. Ronald Becker was the recipient. Clarence Madsen, Jean Madsen and Mrs. Phyliss Herzenach were the first confirmed. Mrs. Rose Martin was the first person to be buried from the new church. The first couple to be married from the church were Francis L. Launderville and Mary Maxine Madsen.

The parish consists of 130 members with Rev. Cletus Keleher as pastor.

## THE LITTLE SIOUX VALLEY CHURCH

Ole Enderson Hesla, who settled in Section 36, Barnes Township, in 1866, helped organize the Little Sioux Valley Church. Meetings were held in what was known as the Dahl and Brown school house with Rev. Nils Amlund in charge of services. This group built a church in 1880. Other persons helpful in the organization of this church were: Ole Brown, Ole Johnson, Sever A. Knudson, Anders Aslogslon, Halvor Olson, Olson Doken, Arne K. Stake, Ole K. Stake, O. H. Storla, Halvor K. Stake and Anders Middleson.

Members of the Christian Science Faith used to hold meetings in Sioux Rapids, but as the years passed these people went to Laurens to services held there.

There was also a church about six miles north of Sioux Rapids. This church was moved to Rosie in 1905.

## Dark Days

Every new territory has its dark days, when the pioneer wonders whether he should stay or leave. There had been a time during 1869 and 1870 that many settlers came here. Most of these had little money and were anxious to cultivate the fertile land and raise crops. They were just progressing nicely when the nation-wide panic of 1873 proved a set back for the early settler of the midwest. It left them hard pressed for any money at all. Farmers were obliged to pay for any goods bought with black walnut lumber which brought only a low price on the market. This had to be cut from along the Little Sioux River and the finest quality of black walnut sold for four cents a foot for dry lumber, and three cents for green. Men also trapped mink, otter and other fur bearing animals along the river to make extra money.

They were just beginning to get back on their feet when the grasshopper plague hit. In June, 1873, there had been a scourge of grasshoppers,

destroying the crops. For a few years after that the crops were good, the homesteaders were encouraged, believing they would never again be bothered with grasshoppers, but the worst was yet to come.

One hot day in July 1876, when crops were most promising a queer cloud seemed to form over the sun. It did not look like rain clouds. The people watched in silence, fear clutching at their hearts, for they knew instinctively what it meant. They heard a whirring sound as of a million pair of wings. Soon the air was filled with grasshoppers, lighting everywhere around them on the heavy headed grain in a field nearby, on the tall tasseling corn like giant swarms of bees. By nightfall there was nothing left to tell of the cornfields but the bare stalks. A few settlers had their grain cut, escaped serious injury but those who were not so fortunate needed no reapers when the hoppers left.

They could devour a whole field in a day.





They did not attack the stalk at the bottom, but ate the head off, near the top. The stalk was not injured and there remained plenty of straw but no grain to speak of. They crawled into the houses and got into the food and cupboards, even into the people's beds.

One family was making soap in a huge iron kettle, over an outdoor fire. The grasshoppers got tangled up in it, scalding a lot of them. The soap had to be strained to get them out, but even so it could not be used for the pests gave it such a vile odor, and it was impossible to get rid of it.

Before the grasshoppers left, the entire crops and gardens were destroyed. These were dark days for the pioneers. Many abandoned their homesteads or traded them for teams and wagons, anything with which to get out of the country. Others stayed because they knew the land was good and would produce crops. The 'hoppers would surely leave in time. But before they left the field were filled with eggs. The next spring, young grasshoppers hatched out in countless numbers. At a given time some of the prairie lands were fired in an effort to destroy the pests and its eggs. It may have helped some as they were not so destructive in 1877.

Outside help, food and clothing was sent into the county for the destitute farmers. Those in need were given checks which entitled them to draw a stated amount of food or clothing.

One bachelor farmer whose stock and crops were mortgaged, went to Spencer and drew a sack of corn meal and sold it to another homesteader for a dollar. He used the money to buy a marriage license, married his cousin and together they left the country.

William Brooke proved himself a life saver and the noble hearted man kept many from starvation.

When the winter brought heavy snow storms and the winds blew across the bleak prairie leaving a desolate land, it was then that William Brooke, who having been here a few years longer

had accumulated several hundred bushels of corn. Almost starving, the men turned to Brooke for help. He had this corn in a rail crib covered with hay. He parcelled this corn out according to the size of the family, and asked no money in return.

And so, at least temporarily, the clouds of grasshoppers were cleared away. Grasshoppers have come back at various times during the years since the great plague, but never in such destructive numbers.

By 1883 things were beginning to look better. Land was sold for \$20 and \$25 an acre and rented for \$1.25 per acre. Farm help could be hired for \$18.00 a month and girls got a dollar or two a week. Grain was stacked and threshed by horsepower using from ten to fourteen teams.

1896 became known as the year of low prices. Eggs sold for 6c a dozen, butter 7c a pound, hogs 3c per pound and cows 2½c per pound. Oats were 10c per bushel, a 50-pound bag of flour could be bought for 80c, calico 6c a yard, overalls were 50c per pair.

The winters were hard. The open prairie receiving the full force of the biting wind and cold. Blizzards were serious things; coming up suddenly, turning very cold and lasting about three days. There was nothing to impede the driving whirling snow. A fall of snow would come the first day, accompanied by high winds and drifts would mount higher and higher. On the second day the temperature would fall and the wind rise still higher. The snow would sift through the houses. It was very easy to get lost, when the high wind was sending snow in every direction; there were so few fences, trees and buildings to use as guides. Lacking shelter, cattle stood huddled around stacks or fence corners without water and sometimes without feed until the storm was over. Sometimes many of them froze to death trying to seek shelter.

The first storm of which there is any record came on March 14, 1870, and for years it was



SIoux RAPIDS FLOOD SCENE DURING EARLY DAYS





remembered as the great blizzard. There were no losses of life in this county but up in Clay County a man and boy went out for wood and were lost in the storm.

On March 25, 1875, a second great storm came. At this time a small boy lost his life.

On January 2, 1885, came another great storm. It was during this time that no trains could get through and people were without coal to burn. Many burned corn and twisted hay in order to keep warm. When coal finally arrived it was doled out in small quantities to each family.

Many remember the blizzard of January 12, 1888. It was during this time that John Olney was frozen to death. Visibility was zero. Teachers and pupils were hit the hardest. The little frame or sod schools, standing unprotected on the bleak prairies, were not equipped to withstand the storm's pounding. Two little girls in Clay County arrived home from school to find their younger brother missing. They started out to find him and their frozen bodies were found the next day.

John Thompson remembers this storm well. He tells the story of how it struck here about seven in the evening. The day was perfect for that time of the year with a coat of 6-7 inches of new fallen snow. Fortunately it struck that late so that most people around here were home. Mr. Thompson was thirteen years old at the time and was helping his father with the milking and feeding the cattle. It struck like a bolt of lightning. Stock cattle were out in the yard cleaning up hay that was scattered about. The instant it struck they let out a terrifying bellow and made for the shed. His father was well trained in the lore of the frontier and had no trouble in reaching the house, but the milk had all been sucked from the pails by the swirl of the storm.

Sometimes a family who had not taken time to go to Fort Dodge and lay in a winter's supply of food staples would have suffered intensely had it not been for the noble hearts of others. Those who had supplies shared it with the less fortunate. At the most, their supplies were meager and consisted mostly of grain. This was ground in an old fashioned coffee mill and used for bread, cake, mush and cereal.

During the blizzard of February 15 and 16, 1899, one man tells of a government thermometer registering -49° below.

Men often hauled supplies on hand sleds from Storm Lake and Spencer and even often times going to Fort Dodge.

Another tells that in the winter of 1880 and 1881 was the deepest snow. The first snow fell on October 16, 1880, and many more severe storms followed during the winter. The snow was so deep at times it was impossible to drive a team to town. At this time hand sleds were again used. The snow drifted so hard and then an occasional thaw and freeze formed such an icy crust that

it was dangerous to try to drive a team, but a man could walk on top of it.

Much of the corn remained in the field all winter, and it was almost the middle of April before farmers could get in the field to gather the corn before sowing the small grain.

Fuel was scarce and corn stalks and twisted hay was burned.

Since those early days the winters have not been so severe, though blizzard conditions are still possible.

The sweep of the wind and the speed of the flying snow can never attain their old time velocity because of the many groves that are now on the land. In those days the snow came early, in huge quantities and laid on the ground until late in the spring.

Those of the present generation claim the winter of 1935-1936 was the "Grand-daddy of all winters." Record snowfall and sub-zero temperatures combined to hamper normal business activities for weeks. Some state this was the worst winter in 117 years.

Alex Cuthbert notes that, "one of the highlights of the severe winter of '35 and '36 was that the thermometer was down to 20° below and more for several weeks and at one time there was no traffic for three days." The Jerry Thompson family stayed with the Cuthberts for several weeks because of the severe weather. Alex made several trips to Sioux Rapids for coal and the neighbors from far out came to their place for it.

Others had to chop wood and burn corn in order to keep warm. Auctioneers had sales booked ahead for weeks and were not able to hold a single one. In many cases farm machinery and equipment scheduled for auction was buried under deep crusts of snow.

Doctors were taken by bob sled and many had to walk to visit the sick. Undertakers were unable to get to homes where death had occurred. R. O. Green, Sioux Rapids undertaker, was called to Greenville by the death of a lady there, and was snowbound in the village the entire weekend.

Yes, it was a tragic touch that was lent to the paralyzed condition over the whole country when doctors were unable to care for critically ill patients and when undertakers found it impossible to care for the bodies of persons who died in isolated communities.

Road crews worked all one day to clear Highway 71 south of Spencer to reach Greenville so that medical aid could be brought to Mrs. Hiram Dubois who was critically ill in Douglas township. Meanwhile snow plow crews also worked north from Sioux Rapids, getting near enough to the home so that Mr. Dubois could be delivered to a waiting car near her home by bob sled and rushed to the hospital at Sioux Rapids.

Roads were impassable and mail carriers





walked many miles over the top of the snow in order to deliver what mail that did come in on trains, when they were able to get through. After being snowed in for quite some time and getting short of supplies, how happy we were when Mr. Risvold had brought the mail to the corner near our place after walking over huge drifts. In the mail was a sample cake of yeast. Once more we had home-made bread to eat as our supplies still consisted of some flour. How good it tasted after eating pancakes, biscuits and corn bread for several days.

Eggs and cream piled up as farmers were unable to deliver them to the market.

The snowfall had been heavy all winter and in February there was just one blizzard after another. Traffic was stopped, schools closed, coal was rationed, and many pheasants lost their lives.

It was a common sight, to see caravans, so to speak, of bob sleds wending their way across fields and over fences trying to get to a neighbor or to town. For entertainment pop corn and apples were once more brought out, people were so happy to have radios as long as the batteries were charged up. H. R. Gross, radio announcer over WHO certainly could make the weather sound cold. In fact it was cold. Telephone lines were kept busy, if you were lucky to be where the storms had not blown the poles down, as this was about the only connection with the outside world.

This winter of 1935-1936 was just a glimpse into the good old times of yore.

Perhaps the next big storm Sioux Rapids had was the Armistice Day storm in 1940. The startling suddenness of the blizzard was responsible for the loss of 1,250 sheep that perished on the McGraw farm two miles west of Rembrandt. Huddled on a 688 acre section of land, the largest section of virgin land in Iowa, the 1,400 head of sheep belonging to Ed Beck were caught in the path of the driving snow and only 150 survived.

A cold rain caused the loss of several thousand sheep in the field a few years ago.

Other losses were heavy in this area. John Brummer (Sioux Rapids implement dealer, reported the loss of 50 hogs. Damage to turkeys was tremendous as the Peerless Hatchery lost more than 4,000 and Fred Plagman of Peterson reported a loss of 7,000. Lawrence Larson of near Linn Grove also reported a loss of 800 birds.

Armistice recess for the children proved lengthy for them in local schools. All roads in this territory were blocked and even the children in town found it difficult to get to the school house.

The storm took big pheasant toll in this area. Scores of birds were found dead along roadways and in groves. A request by the Iowa Conservation Commission to cease the shooting of pheasants was issued because of the heavy losses.

But after the winter, the spring always came to Sioux Rapids and the wild flowers lift their heads, the grass sends up new shoots, the birds sing and happiness and contentment is everywhere.

In the early days, just as the blizzard was the dread of the winter, so the prairie fire loomed big in the summer; especially in the early fall when the grass was dry from the summer heat. Sometimes these fires were started by careless settlers or roving bands of Indians who would start a fire to scare small game from the tall grasses. Anyone who has seen the flames mounted high in a solid wall of fire would never forget. There is a certain fascination in bonfires in the spring or fall, but a prairie fire brings a sickening fear. But when they were once started they spread with the breeze with such fury, it was almost impossible to stop them. Most of the settlers would scan the skies each night before going to bed, to make sure there was none. Even then many times the people would be awakened at nights, the house full of smoke and the skies painted red from the glow of the flames. This wall of flames would sometimes be fifteen feet high and a mile wide, leaping in the sky and roaring like demons turned loose.

The first thought was of their homes and property, plows were speedily put to work. Two furrows were plowed around the buildings in an effort to protect them. Back fires were also used in an attempt to stop the oncoming menace.

Prairie fires had to be met head on, sometimes the gunny sack, the mop, the broom, old sacks or pieces of clothing were plunged in water and wielded by a brawny arm helped greatly in averting a serious loss.

There was one experience that George Burr never forgot. It took place shortly after he was married in 1878. A fire got started and with a strong wind coming up suddenly, the fire got out of control and a major prairie fire was soon underway. The flames jumped the Little Sioux River and raced northward twelve miles burning a strip two miles wide.

Although he knew his place was safe, his only thought was to get word to his neighbors to the north and warn them of the fire. Riding his horse at top speed he raced ahead of the flames which threatened to overtake him.

He was able to spread the warning to a dozen or more settlers in the path of the flames. The flames were stopped at a point northwest of Rossie where furrows were hurriedly plowed in tillable lands. As a result of his efforts, livestock and other property losses were averted. The memory of Mr. Burr will always be cherished by the many brave deeds and acts of kindness he did.

These are just some of the "dark days" that will remain in the memories of those who called Sioux Rapids their home.





Perhaps the first industry of the settlers to bring in money was that of trapping of animals along the Little Sioux. To most people today the trapper has become either a romantic figure of the past, or a hero in some far off reaches of Canada or Alaska. Even the art of trapping has all but been lost. But in the early day the trapper carries on the spirit, lore and the ruggedness of some one who is fighting for a means of livelihood.

Uncle Johnny Burr was known throughout the west as a hunter and trapper. He was a close friend of Abner Bell, and together the two friends engaged in trapping along the river. The last beaver which Uncle Johnny Burr caught weighed forty-four pounds. For a long time he derived his income largely from the sale of furs and pelts, engaging in that work when the country afforded little opportunity for other kinds of business.

Others also were engaged in this kind of work, and often-times some scoundrel would steal another's traps as well as what was in them. Some used the pelts for clothing, and others brought their furs in for sale. Indians also brought their furs for sale to the local fur buyers.

Henry Jacobson, Gus Gilbert and John Halverson had the first general store in Sioux Rapids. They were known as the "Three Norwegian Boys" and at one time they had over \$1,000 worth of pelts and furs that had been brought in. A representative of the Hudson Bay Company came and bought them. Abner Bell often gave the young children beaver teeth, and told them to make a charm string using them.

The first saw mill, located near the present highway bridge, was built in 1867. People came from Newell, Laurens, and other towns to get

lumber sawed. This was a great help to the settlers in the building of their homes.

The timber along the Little Sioux was plentiful, but it took a great deal of work to fell the trees and get them to the mill.

In 1870, the first flour mill was completed and at that time there was no other water power in the county except the small dam at Sioux Rapids. Before this the nearest grist mill was at Fort Dodge.

A great event for the pioneer was a trip to town with grain to be taken to the mill. Always one had to wait his turn at the mill and sometimes the river would be too low to grind so the trip to the mill sometimes lasted a week or more. Grain was given in payment for grinding. Often times when the trails were drifted shut in the winter, a pioneer would have to bring a sack of grain to the mill on a hand sled. Some times it took days to make the trip. Tyre and Watts owned the flour mill.

Blake and Tyford had the saw mill at Sioux Rapids. They made much lumber out of the native walnut trees. Henry Jacobson's store was all built from native walnut; only the window frames and shingles were brought in.

The citizens of Sioux Rapids were a bit disappointed at first when the courthouse was taken to Storm Lake, but the coming of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad in 1882 was what the town needed more than the courthouse, and new vigor was felt in every line of activity. New business houses were built and the population increased rapidly.

Before the work on the railroad began, the surveyors for this line had been at work for some time. When the actual laying of the road began, many types and nationalities poured into Sioux



M. & ST. L. BRIDGE





Rapids. It took much man labor as well as horse and mule power to grade the road through swamps and rough land.

Of these that came some were Italians as well as other nationalities. Many of these were of the rough-an-tumble type, and a good fight could come about almost at the drop of a hat. Card playing was the cause of many of these fights. The men had little recreation, except for cards, and perhaps a few sports.

Of course, there were some of the more refined type. We know of one workman who took a walk to the nearby hills, and as he looked down into the valley, he wrote a beautiful poem, on the back of an envelope. Every verse ended with the lines:

"On the Banks of the Little Sioux."

Another character who worked on the railroad was an expert billiard player. His folks lived in England and were very rich. But this man was an outcast in the family, so he came to America and on to Sioux Rapids, where he got a job on the building of the railroad. He was in a local store one day when an election was taking place. Main Street was well represented. He tore a piece of paper from the roll on the counter and sketched a true likeness of the people on Main Street. Many wished to buy this sketch, but he would not sell it. He also sketched a picture of the town, viewed from the top of a nearby hill. Hank Moore offered him twenty-five dollars for this picture but he would not sell this either.

And there was the man who had to be shown that there were fish in the Little Sioux river. He made a bet that he could eat all the fish in the river. So the next morning a local man caught a whole tubfull before breakfast and dumped them at the feet of the man who had made the bet. He changed his mind in a hurry about eating all the fish in the river.

Finally the road was built and in 1882, W. H. Pratt became the first railroad agent. This was the end of the division and was known as the "Front." There were four trains a day.

C. B. Mills came here as a young boy and went along with the construction company as a telegraph operator.

Henry Jacobson built the first creamery in Sioux Rapids.

In 1900, the Milwaukee and St. Louis railroad was built. This again added new stimulus to the building of the town which was still growing. Scotts and Son's from St. Louis graded the M. & St. L. Railroad. Reardon was dump boss on the grade. They had a large camp where the men were fed. They usually had a camp cook and each man served himself. Between 225 or 230 horses and mules were used with a few good horses for leaders. It took many men to feed and care for these horses.

Men from all walks of life worked on the railroad and would come into town for an evening of entertainment; although there were two saloons in town, many of the men would drink "Bitters" got from the local drug stores.

When Mr. Pratt was station agent, there was an early morning train about seven, one at noon, and an afternoon train and an evening train with a sleeper on. The train men ate their meals at the Hotel Parker. Mr. Cowan was the next station master. He had been Mr. Pratt's operator for some time. Mr. Dugger was agent here at one time. The Pratt family lived in rooms up above the waiting rooms of the depot.

The M. & St. L. railroad was discontinued in 1936.

The first large bridge in the county was built over the Little Sioux where the present bridge now stands and was called Hollingsworth Ford Bridge. J. B. Twiford built the bridge and got



M. & ST. L. BRIDGE KNOWN AS HALF MILE BRIDGE







SIoux RAPIDS RIVER BRIDGE AND FLOUR MILL

\$3,000 for it. When it was built, bids to make approaches were called for to do this work, to be completed by December 1, 1869. William Lee was awarded the contract to build the north approach for \$2,150, and William Phipps the south approach for \$1,850.

Another large bridge was the famous "Half Mile Railroad Bridge," northeast of Sioux Rapids. It was more than 3,000 feet long and 75 feet high over the river. The greater part of the bridge is of wood construction but the section across the river is of steel. More than 90 carloads of lumber was used in the "Half Mile Bridge."

Another industry that sprung up in here was when N. C. Simonson came to Sioux Rapids on April 2, 1906, to operate the blacksmith shop owned by Conley and Gabrielson. Mr. Simonson bought the shop later that year and named it the Simonson Iron Works. A short time later he

started manufacturing along with his repair business and carried on the management until his health failed. In 1946 the business was incorporated and has since been known as the Simonson Iron Works, Inc. Mr. Simonson passed away in 1952 and his work is now carried on by his son, Walter.

A waterworks system was installed in 1889, and fourteen years later the town bought the electric light plant which is now operated by the Northwestern Light and Power Company.

Sioux Rapids had one of the most complete brick and tile factories in the state in 1905.

In 1860 Moses Van Kirk, county judge, entered into a contract with James Gleason and John Standley to build a bridge over the Little Sioux river at Sioux Rapids. It was completed in 1861 by Jasper N. Lindsley, a sub-contractor, but went out in 1862 in high water.



HIGHWAY NO. 71 BRIDGE







EARLY MAIN STREET IN SIOUX RAPIDS

## The News

The first news received by the pioneer was not brought by the printed pages of the newspaper. It was brought by neighbors or new settlers coming in. News in a modern sense was unknown.

The arrival of the stage coach was hailed by nearly everyone in the settlement for bits of news from the outside world.

Before the M. & St. L. Railroad came, a stage went from Sioux Rapids to Storm Lake. On trips from Storm Lake north the stage would leave there about one o'clock and reach Sioux Rapids about six o'clock. It made a stop at place called Peach Stop and picked up the mail there. Zinzer's post office was another place where mail was picked up.

Rock Bentley, who came in 1857 with some surveyors, was one of the stage drivers from the south. In 1890 there was also a stage that carried the mail from Spencer to Sioux Rapids. They made a stop at a place called Annieville and then proceeded to Greenville where the mail was distributed and then on to Sioux Rapids. The name of one of these drivers was a Mr. Runche and another was Jim Runkle.

In the late 1870's George Burr drove a stage between Greenville and Spencer. Often he had to

ford Willow Creek and muddy roads and other difficulties made the trip a real undertaking.

On another route that went across towards Emmetsburg there was a stopping place for the stage called Shackton, named because of the grouping of a number of shacks there. This place was near where McClay used to be.

On Section 34 in Lee township the postoffice "Menoti" was located, and at one time it was thought that a town might grow up there. There is some authority for the statement that a plat did exist there and that lots had been sold in the east for the future metropolis of the county but it can not be verified. This town was on the Sioux Rapids-Newell road, the principal highway in the county at that time. We understand that "Menoti" was located where the Walter Jacobson family now live.

The first mail came from Fort Dodge once a week and letters and newspapers were scarce and often old when they arrived. Mail facilities were slow and irregular, especially in the winter when the storms were so severe that roads would be blocked and every trail would be covered.

The newspapers of the early day were edited from a literary point of view. They did not contain much news as there was not much news to







MAIN STREET IN SIOUX RAPIDS—1955

chronicle. They also printed poetry and many debates were carried on between reader and publisher; each feeling free to pen his own thoughts. Even publishers of different papers would carry on debates.

The first newspaper in Sioux Rapids was *The Echo*, founded in 1875 by D. C. and W. R. Thomas. This continued until 1877.

Cyril Anderson is the proud owner of a copy of the *Sioux Rapids Echo* dated February 10, 1875. Cyril says he has kept this certain issue of *The Echo* because in February of 1875, Sioux Rapids was snowbound for a week. Consequently there was no mail or freight service and *The Echo* had run out of print paper. The day of publication came for *The Echo* and the publishers, D. C. and W. R. Thomas, had no paper on which to print it. Finally they went to the Anderson store and borrowed enough wrapping paper to get out the February 10, issue.

*The Echo* had this to say about the snow blockade: "The snow blockade had been a long one, with little or no mail. The Illinois Central which comes into Storm Lake, is our main dependence for mail. The train was very badly snowed in between Webster City and Ackley, worse than it has ever been known to us before. How we missed our daily batch of exchanges and letters. We had to resort to old ones. There was a lack of reading matter and many an old almanac and dust covered Bible were called upon to do duty, the first time in many years."

Some of the business houses were: M. O. Poulson, hardware store; Hans Johnson, clothing store; W. W. Dutton, meat market; C. A. Sweet, billiard hall, and the local market listed wheat, per bushel, 60c; new corn, bu. 30c; oats, bu. 35c; barley, bu. 50c; flour, 100 lbs. \$2.50; butter, lb. 25c; eggs, doz. 15c; beans, bu. \$2 to \$3; potatoes, bu. 50c, and hides, green, 5c. Compared to the soaring prices of today, a dollar then would buy a lot of things.

Editors D. C. and W. R. Thomas must have been busy men. Besides publishing *The Echo* they were also listed in the professional columns as attorneys. W. R. also had the job of postmaster.

Eilet Torkelson is another proud owner of an early issue of *The Echo*. His paper dates back to July 19, 1876. It is a four-page edition. Mr. Torkelson said *The Echo* was the third newspaper in the county. The *Storm Lake Pilot* was the first, appearing in 1870. Although there was no train service, The Daily Stage Line was doing a real good business. Their ad read like this:

The stage on this line will leave Storm Lake immediately after the arrival of the express train from the East, arrive in Sioux Rapids for dinner and reach Spencer in the evening. Returning will leave Spencer in the morning, take dinner in Sioux Rapids and arrive at Storm Lake in time for the train East. With new hacks and careful drivers,







THE OLD PARKER HOUSE

we make close connections and solicit the patronage of the traveling public.

J. P. & J. O. Evans, Proprietors

*The Echo* was discontinued and then in 1881 W. S. Westcott commenced the publication of the *Press*, which he edited for two years, then selling it to Acres, Helms and Blackmer, who sold it to Bob Helms. J. W. Deupree was the next owner and he sold it to C. C. Colwell. Mr. Colwell was born at Vinton, Iowa, and attended public schools there. He then learned the printers trade and came to Buena Vista County in 1886 and worked in the office of the *Sioux Rapids Press* for several months and then took over management of the paper for three years. He then worked on two of the Storm Lake papers, coming back to Sioux Rapids in January, 1899, when he purchased *The Sioux Rapids Republican* from James Hoskens. Mr. Hoskens started it in 1896. In 1906 Colwell purchased the *Sioux Rapids Press* in connection with J. E. Durkee, and the Colwell-Durkee Printing Company was formed, the two papers being merged under the name of *The Republican Press*. In 1907, they

sold it and the name of the company changed to the Ryder-Sherman Printing Co. It was now issued by C. E. Ryder and G. M. Sherman.

Mr. Ryder was the father of the famous triplets of Sioux Rapids known as Tom, Dick and Harry, although their real names were Don, Dean and Darrell. Nearly every resident in Sioux Rapids has some amusing incident to relate about them. The triplets were always dressed alike and when they were small the town of Sioux Rapids bought them a baby carriage. It was made on special order and of special design.

Once when the boys were younger, they solemnly burned three of their shoes, one belonging to each of them.

When he was only four years old Harry climbed to the top of a telephone pole and when discovered he was making investigation of the wires.

Another time the three boys went swimming in a creek near Sioux Rapids. The current carried to the river and they escaped drowning only by grabbing hold of some overhanging branches and pulling themselves out.

All three of them served in the armed services of World War II.

Tom was the only one of the three to get married.

Don, who was "Dick" passed away in May of 1950. In 1942 the paper was known as the *Sioux Rapids Press* and was edited by G. M. Sherman.

A Mr. Searle bought the paper next and had it a few months and then sold it to Mr. Lewis.

About six years ago Bob Coffman and Ted Witter took the paper over under the name of the *Bulletin Press* and have published a very fine paper since then.

The popular column "Over the Coffee" written by Ted Witter has gained recognition in many arts of the United States. Quotes from his column have been used in many of the leading papers and magazines.



OLD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH







**SIoux RAPIDS BUSINESS MEN**

Back Row, left to right: Horace R. Cowan, Sidney Perkins, Roy Scarborough, Wallace Struble.

Middle Row: William Beeber, Frank Schweitzer, Herman Doerr, Oliver Olsen

Bottom Row: Raymond F. Thomas, Fred H. Crawford, Wallace Carter, Martin Christensen, Guss Dannebaum, (unable to recall last name.) Picture taken July 15, 1894.

Mrs. Orville Becker was awarded first prize of \$500 in the *Bulletin Press* subscription campaign on May 25, 1954. Mrs. August Moratzka of Cornell placed second. Mrs. Jim Matthies third prize and Mrs. Therma Farris of Linn Grove won fourth place.

Walter Simonsen at one time published a paper known as the *Sioux Rapids Bulletin Board*.

Up until 1900 there was no rural free delivery routes in the county. But with the adoption of the rural delivery system routes were established out of the different towns.

But the county was not covered as a whole and in January, 1905, J. F. Elston, a post office inspector, was sent here to devise a county delivery that would supply all of the residents. He went over the ground with care and on the first of June, 1905, he assigned the different routes out of Sioux Rapids.

The former country post offices were discontinued and mail was brought in by train and then taken out on routes. It proved very popular with the farming communities. The carrier traveled over good and bad roads, through sunshine and storm in order to deliver the mail. In early days it was done with horse and buggy and, of course, cars are used today.

Later when trains were discontinued star routes were made. These were cancelled by the government with the addition of the Highway Post Office truck. A large number of people were present to witness the first trip of this

truck and to inspect its interior in November, 1952. Mr. Sipe was postmaster here for some time and Nelle Cullen served in this position for over 17 years.

Kenneth Cate was appointed acting postmaster on May 1, 1953 and later Don Stanzel was appointed postmaster and is filling that job at present. Mrs. Oscar Olson is at present helping in the post office. Gordon Larson is mail carrier for Route 1. Earl Lehigh is mail carrier for Route 2.

Stamp sales at the Sioux Rapids postoffice for the month of last December, 1954, though Christmas totaled \$2,200. This total represents 31,000 two-cent stamps and 30,000 three-cent stamps.

In the year 1869, James E. Carter arrived in Buena Vista county. He left Fayette county, Iowa with ox-team and started for Cherokee, this state but on arriving at Sac City they decided to change their course and go further north. Leaving their team at Twin Lakes, they started out on foot and walked the entire distance from there to Sioux Rapids. Seven miles north of Sac City they passed the last house which they saw until reaching Struble's place at Sioux Rapids. Here they were met by James Hoskins and in company with him took up a government claim. Later Mr. Carter constructed the first telephone lines in Buena Vista county, running between Sioux Rapids and Storm Lake and owned by Hoskins and Toys. During its construction he had some novel experiences as many of the far-







**DR. H. J. DIVINE**  
One of the very early doctors



**MRS. RUTH SICKLES**  
Founded Local Hospital

mers looked upon the poles with wires strung on them as dangerous to life of men and stock and would pile stones in the holes dug for poles and otherwise hindered the work.

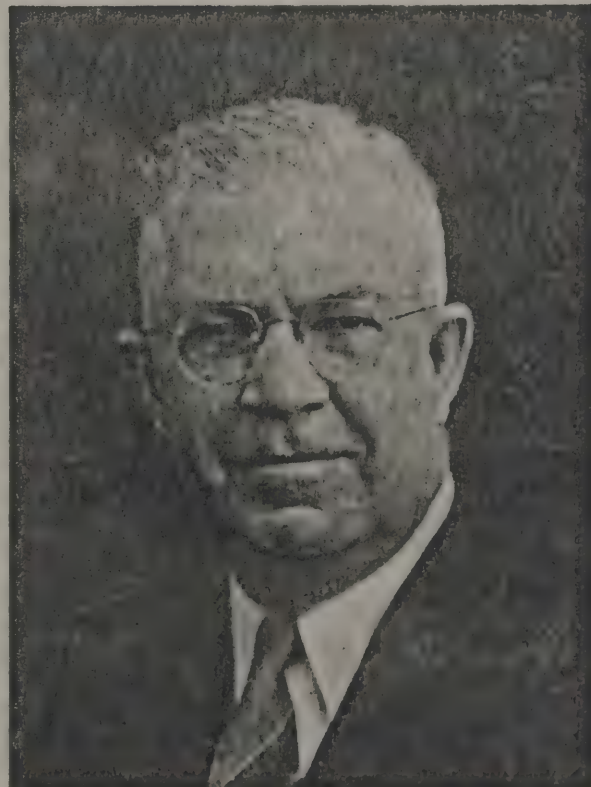
Mr. Carter graded nearly all the streets in Sioux Rapids and in many ways assisted in beautifying the town.

As time passed, Sioux Rapids got its news through the means of radio and television. Nearly every home in Sioux Rapids has one radio and sometimes more. During the past couple of years since television has come to town a large number of people enjoy it in their homes.

Gamble's Store, Larson's Hardware, Coast to Coast Store, Arnette Hardware are our very capable dealers in both radio and television. Alvin Moe specializes in both radio and television. All these fine stores carry a good line and always are willing to service the radios and television sets in the community.

Al Gran of the Sioux Theatre also presents news reels on the screen for the benefit of its customers.

We are proud to know that Sioux Rapids has traveled far in the means of getting news almost as soon as it happens.



**DR. T. R. CAMPBELL**





# Guarding the Health of the People of Sioux Rapids

The pioneers were a hardy lot; their active life, fresh air and coarse food saved them from many an ailment. Accidents were common and, of course all were subject to disease. From here the nearest doctor was at Fort Dodge and was only called upon in dire necessity. Many times he could not reach a patient because of bad roads. In those days the doctor had to travel by horseback or in a light buggy. It might take several days or more to reach a patient because there were creeks and swamps to cross in the summer and snowdrifts and storms to battle in the winter. On these long trips the doctor found people waiting at cross roads to take back medicine or advice in caring for the sick.

A neighbor lady usually attended the birth of a child, but the mother herself learned to treat many of the ailments of her family.

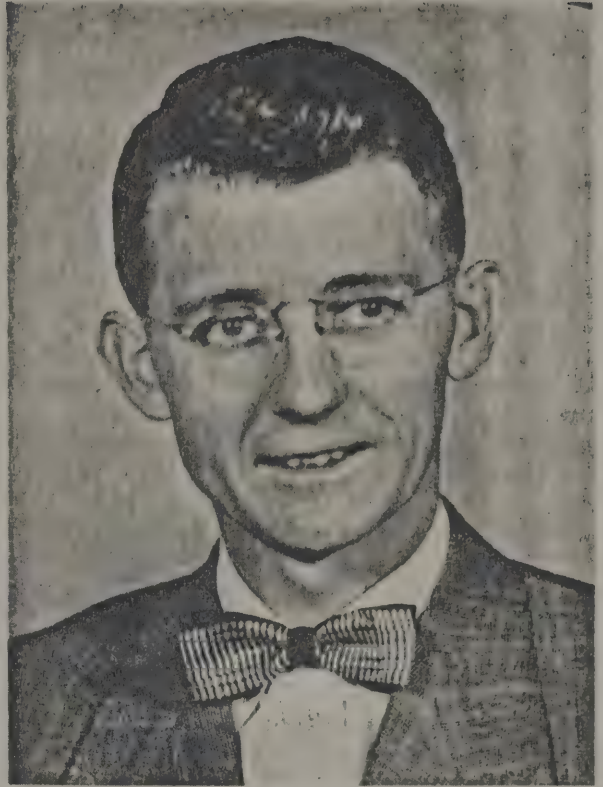
Certain women apt to nursing served as midwives. When the doctor was unable to come these women took over. She was always intelligent and resourceful and inspired courage and strength in her patients.

Often times almost immediately after the birth of a child the mother would continue to do her usual work. These women did not make good recoveries. Many times both the mother and child would die because of lack of medical care. At times like this people were willing and ready to help each other. In the real early days there was a lack of undertaking service and friends or relatives bathed and dressed the corpse after death. Friends would take turns sitting up with the bodies at night until burial arrangements could be made.

In cases of sickness many home remedies were used. Quinine was used for ague and malaria. Many suffered with this because the swamps were so full of mosquitoes. It did not take many mosquito bites to fill a man's system with poison. Other remedies were sulphur and molasses for a good spring tonic, homemade bittersweet salves for wounds, onion syrup for coughs, a strip of flannel soaked in kerosene to blister a sore throat, a "fetta bag"—a piece of asafetida tied in a bag which was sometimes hung around a child's neck to prevent "ketchin" diseases, hot ginger tea for colds, all kinds of poultices made from bread and milk or a strip of fat pork, and then there was the mustard plaster left on till the patient was blistered.

Whiskey was used for snake bites and often drank to deaden the pain when a tooth was pulled. Herbs were gathered from the prairie grasses and made into medicines.

Many soothing salves for chapped hands and marvelous lotions were made for the faces. Buttermilk and lemon juice were used to remove



DR. ROGER J. MATTICE

the tan and freckles. Eggs were used to shampoo the hair to make it shiny and glossy.

Summer complaint, inflammation of the bowel, lung fever and consumption took its toll of the young and old.

They did not vaccinate for smallpox until the late 1870's and diphtheria sometimes wiped out whole families.

Nurse Hollingsworth, came here at the same time Michael Hollingsworth came. She was known far and wide and for some time was the only one with any medical knowledge west of Fort Dodge. She had much experience in sickness and prescribed for the minor ailments and assisted many a sufferer to health.

Dr. Stephen Olney was the first practicing physician in Buena Vista County. His patients were widely scattered over a broad territory, where roads if they existed at all were very poor, while often only a trail led across the prairie. He must respond to calls, he must make long rides through the summers heat, and through blinding snow storms over the bleak prairie in the winter. The little cabins to which he was called had very few conveniences. There was no professional nurses, only willing and loving hands to offer assistance.

Dr. Olney came to Sioux Rapids in April, 1869,





at the age of twenty-three. He continued to practice at Sioux Rapids until the spring of 1875 when he went to South Dakota to practice.

During his first year here he helped with the surveying of the county. In October, 1872, Dr. Olney married Miss Sarah M. Lee, a daughter of William Lee.

Some of the other doctors who served the needs of our community were: Dr. Emmet, Dr. Pond, Dr. Stevens, Dr. Sanborn, Dr. Nordstrom, who came in 1890, Dr. Devine, Dr. Oberg, Dr. Hubbell, Dr. I. O. Pond, who came in 1901, Dr. Tice, Dr. Smith, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Swallum, Dr. Glesne, Dr. Hayworth and Dr. Mattice.

Both Dr. Hayworth and Dr. Mattice had offices with Dr. Campbell. Upon the death of Dr. E. E. Smith, Dr. Campbell came here to open his practice in the same building in which he is now located. Our own, famous Dr. Campbell has been here in Sioux Rapids for 33 years healing and helping the community in many ways.

He began practicing in North Dakota where he remained for seven years. He served in the British army as an exchange doctor during World War I. During World War II he performed all the draft examinations in Buena Vista County for the first year of the war.

In 1946 Dr. Ballard Hayworth joined Dr. Campbell, but left in 1948 to specialize. Dr. Mattice from Primghar then joined Dr. Campbell.

The recent expansion of office space now give Dr. Campbell and Dr. Mattice a total of 16 rooms. They consist of a reception room, business office, four consultation rooms, two treatment rooms, an x-ray room, developing room, utility rooms, drug room, etc.

Dr. Campbell graduated from the University of Iowa in 1909 and also studied at Montpellier, France, it being the oldest medical school in France.

Dr. Mattice graduated from the University of Iowa in 1945. He served as head of the x-ray department of the army hospital at Tokyo, before coming here.

Dr. and Mrs. Campbell had the privilege of visiting in Europe recently.

The community is very fortunate to have such doctors as Dr. Campbell and Dr. Mattice to serve its need. They are both always ready, day or night, to do the job they are trained for.

Office girls for Dr. Campbell and Dr. Mattice are Hazel Doyle and Mrs. George Hurless. Mrs. Waldron Remillard substitutes when either of the girls are on vacation.

Free chest x-rays, sponsored by the Buena Vista County Tuberculosis and Health Association and approved by the Buena Vista Medical Society, are given each child from the 7th grade on and adults. A mobile unit comes to Sioux Rapids to do this.

There has also been some fine dentists in Sioux Rapids. Some of them were: Dr. Bruner,

Dr. Christiansen, Dr. Birdwell, who moved to South Dakota, Dr. Leikvold, father of Honroe Leikvold, Dr. Howe who went to Sioux City, Dr. F. E. Anderson and Dr. Karl Larsen, Dr. Gilbertson who is at present located here and Dr. D. E. Endersby who has been here for 14 years, taking over Dr. Schneck's practice after his death. Dr. Endersby served in the armed forces for thirty-nine months, twenty-one of these being in the European Theatre. Mrs. Schneck assists in the office of Dr. Endersby and Miss Rose Evenson in Dr. Gilbertson's office.

On January 5, 1951, Dr. M. W. Polson opened his office for chiropractic practices. His first location was that of the former Dr. Karl Larson above the post office. His fine, new modern location is in the former Torkelson Building. He is a Palmer Graduate and offers x-ray, neurocalometer and full spine analysis. Miss Bernice Evenson is assisting him in the office.

Evalyn Bueker has a nice office next to Carris Auto Service and is equipped to give massages and vapor baths.

Lena Seifken, now 86 years old, tells of the early days when she did practical nursing. Many times she would go along with the doctor to help with a patient or with the birth of a child. Their means of travel in winter was with a horse and cutter. She tells of once when going out on a call with Dr. Tyce they got stuck near the Mr. Menafee place and how they were invited in for breakfast and later the men folks helped shovel them out so that they might be on their way to see the sick patient. Another time while going on a call to the Levi Landness place with Dr. Oberg they got stalled again and had to be shoveled out of the deep snow. Mrs. Siefken not only took care of the sick, but oftentimes helped with the work too. The early method of nursing was far different than the modern methods of today. There was no telephone or modern toilet facilities. Bedding and clothing had to be washed by hand or with hand washing machines. Water had to be heated over wood stoves.

Mrs. Seifken also helped Dr. Steward of Rembrandt as well as the doctors here in Sioux Rapids. She also has helped at the hospital many times. The first baby she took care of was Omar Seifken.

No one for many miles around will ever forget the loving care that Mrs. Ruth Sickles gave them if they needed to be in the Sickles Hospital at Sioux Rapids.

Mrs. Sickles graduated in 1904 from the Samaritan Hospital, now the Methodist Hospital in Sioux City. For some time she worked out from Sioux City in the country as well as in the city itself.

In 1906 she had charge of the hospital in Luverne, Minnesota, for some time.

In 1915 she was married to Perry Sickles and in 1923 moved into the residence that is now the





Sickles Hospital. Her husband was sick with leukemia and she needed to care for him. She decided to take in other patients, too, and thus the Sickles Hospital was started. Mr. Sickles passed away in 1927, but Mrs. Sickles continued with her work until 1948. During a period of twenty-five years while Mrs. Sickles was in charge of the hospital, approximately 900 babies were born.

Miss Betty Holm and Darriel Mathews were both born at the Sickles Hospital and were later married. Both of their children, Pat and Mike, were born in the same hospital as their parents were. We believe there are several incidents like this.

Mrs. Sickles tells of how in the earlier days of the hospital, they had to do their own sterilizing, where now they have machines to do it with. Sheets had to be boiled and many times Mrs. Sickles had to go out on calls with the doctors. She has worked with Dr. Swallum, Dr. T. B. Tyce, Dr. Oberg, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Rust and Dr. Hayworth.

At her retirement from the hospital, Mrs. Sickles built a new little home across the street from the hospital and has lived there for seven years. She is still interested in the health of the community.

Perry Sickles was postmaster at Sioux Rapids for a period of five years beginning in 1918.

Mrs. D. W. Fernau now has charge of the hospital and has made several new additions,

thus giving her more room to care for the sick. New equipment has also been added. The community is proud of the hospital and the wonderful methods Mrs. Fernau has in caring for the sick.

Some of the morticians for Sioux Rapids have been Mr. Scarbough who was here in 1895 during the time when it was necessary to use horses. He also had charge of the burial of Abner Bell.

Mr. Sipe worked in the bank around 1922 and in 1923 served as postmaster. Later he helped Mr. Green in the furniture store and also was connected with Mr. Green in the Funeral Home.

Ralph O. Green was in charge of the Green Funeral Home for 33 years from 1919 to 1952. He also had a furniture store until 1942, when he sold it to Harry Blackert.

Frank Filer was at one time connected with the Green Funeral Home.

Lowell Henry, a former Sioux Rapids man and son of Mrs. A. S. Henry, bought the Green Funeral Home and took over on February 1, 1951. Before this Mr. Henry was an experienced director in a funeral home in Sumner.

The Funeral Home now goes under the name of the Henry Funeral Home and Mr. Henry also offers twenty-four hour ambulance service.

Mr. Henry is president of the Chamber of Commerce for 1955. Mr. and Mrs. Henry are the parents of a son, Mark.

## Happy Times in the Little Sioux Valley

Sioux Rapids has had many gay times since the beginning. Pioneer fun was often rough and unrefined, but it was not vicious. It reflected the simple tastes of the early settlers and afforded some relief from the dull routine of securing a living.

Perhaps the first entertainment was the husking bees and spelling bees. In Sioux Rapids the "Mite Society" was one of the early social gatherings. It was formed by Mr. Watt and Mr. Tyre. Whole families were in attendance every Friday night. These were held in different homes. No one thought of leaving the children home or hiring a baby sitter. They were brought along and when they were tired, were bedded down in a convenient place.

At these "Mite Societies" they played such games as: Cross Questions and Crazy Answers and Charades, after which they would have a candy pull. Often times a card game called "Bizique" was played. There was always some one who could play the "fiddle" so many times they danced till morning.

In the winter time revival meetings were held. People hitched up horses to sleds and set spring seats in the bottom of the sled, then picked up

enough neighbors to make a good load. What fun they had riding over the snow, as the sleigh bells made music above the singing voices of those in the sled. Warm blankets were always taken along to cover the horses while the people attended the meetings, then they would drive home, work hard the next day and do the same thing over again the next night until the meetings were ended.

No one will ever forget the large picnics that were held. About 1885 there was a 4th of July celebration held in a grove between Sioux Rapids and Linn Grove and the band from Sioux Rapids furnished the music. Some of the members of the band were: Johnny Jacobson, Code Hanks, Art Eastman, Herdie Pond, L. T. Barker, Art Stevens, Orin Middleton, Ed and Lou Duroe.

Mr. Crawford relates that the first time the Ringling Brothers Circus came to town that they had seven wagons. About this time the Kickapoo Indian Sagwa, Medicine Show was here for about a month.

Some of the recollections of J. F. Thompson were of the first circus that came in horse drawn wagons via the stage road from Storm Lake. They had two or three elephants, as many







SIoux RAPIDS CARNIVAL SCENE IN 1911

camels, donkeys, etc., trudging along on foot. All told, the procession numbered many units. They arrived at daybreak, after a twenty-mile march at night. He did not have money to buy tickets but his father took the boys down in the evening to see the tents and camp lit by torches.

The first 4th of July celebration he attended was sponsored by the L.S.V. Ladies Aid in Ole Brown's grove. Mr. Brown was Master of Ceremonies and Halvor Loe was Speaker of the Day.

Music was furnished by a six-piece brass band from Sioux Rapids. Mr. Thompson had heard of bands but had never hoped to see one. The sponsors did so well they staged a repeat performance in Linn Grove the next year. The main feature of this celebration was a tug-of-war between the Vikings and the Welsh. It was rumored that they pulled the Welsh in the river.

Another amusing incident told by Mr. Thompson was as follows: Before they built the Church for the L.S.V. Congregation services were held in Brown's Schoolhouse. The building was set on prairie boulders with spaces between.

The day was hot and sultry, and the door and windows were wide open to provide air for the packed house. The Pastor was in the climax of his sermon when in crawled Thor Sigurdson's massive hound in search of his master. In less time than it takes to tell it, the house was evacuated through the doors and windows with handkerchies before their noses leaving the Pastor preaching to a vanishing congregation.

Poor Fido, to cool himself had crawled under the school house for relief, not knowing Madam

Skunk had appropriated the premises for herself and family. What more could he do than seek counsel from his master who was inside worshipping? What a break for a knee-high kid sitting squeezed between two elders, wishing and wondering if the sermon wasn't soon coming to a close.

Mr. Thompson also states, that the first political rally he witnessed was by Gov. Larrabee. It was held in a hall where Burr's Clothing Store is now.

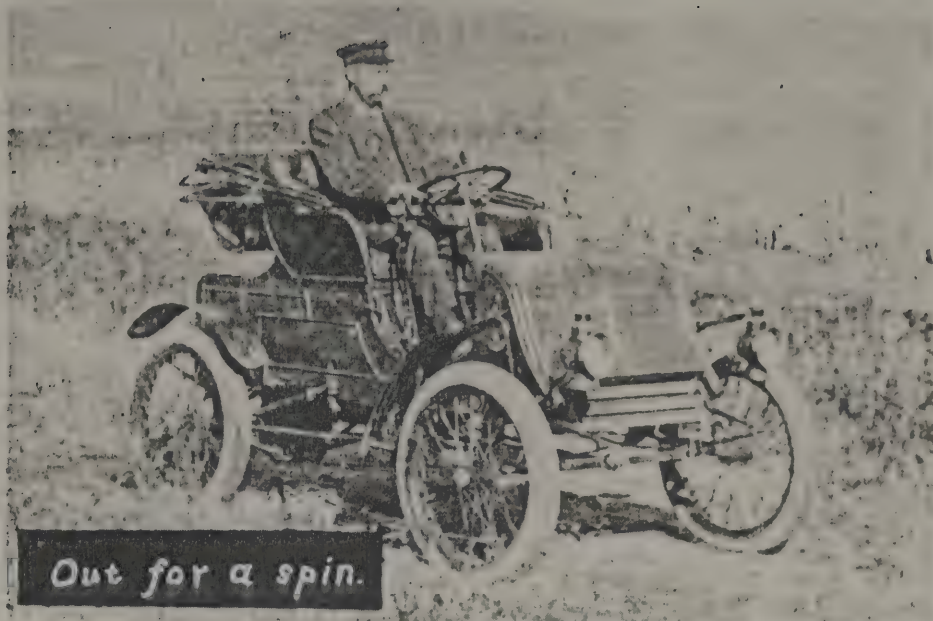
It was during this time that Judge Helsell owned a snappy team of driving horses and a new rubber-tired buggy. He was the envy of many. A few had bicycles, some with a high four-foot wheel in front, a small one in the back. Others had the ordinary two wheel cycles.

Of course, time marches on and "Old Dobbin" was still in use, but those good, old gas buggies were becoming known. And if you still did drive "Old Dobbin" you'd have to get out and hold the reins while the "gas buggy" went sputtering past.

Sioux Rapids' first car was owned by Frank Kidman. It was a one-cylinder Winton. He bought it in St. Paul, Minnesota in September, 1902, for \$1,400. The tires were pneumatic, but there were no inner tubes. The car had oil lamps, and a chain drive. It was cranked from the side and started comparatively easy. "Policemen often stopped me and warned me against driving too fast when I hit 'er up to about twenty miles an hour." Mr. Kidman always laughed when he related his experiences in the old car.







*Out for a spin.*

FIRST CAR IN SIOUX RAPIDS—FRANK KIDMAN, OWNER

Mrs. Pratt had a beautiful driving horse of western blood named Jim. Ordinarily, this horse was very gentle, little children could lead it around but it became terribly frightened at the sight of a car. Mrs. Pratt hired Clarence Crane to ride this horse down town when she knew there were cars on the street to get him used to them. Mr. Crane says he earned quite a few quarters doing this.

With the use of the "new gas buggies" and "good old dobbin" still people would gather for Fourth of July celebrations with spontaneous energy.

People would drive for miles with horses to bring the families to watch the parade, the stunts, hear the band and at ten o'clock some famous orator would give a speech.

They would build a large platform and decorate it with bunting and flags. The listeners would gather on plank seats or stand up in order to hear every word.

Practical jokers had their part in the early celebrations, too. One time when Judge Hellsell was about to deliver his oration two of the local men decided to play a joke on him. Judge Hellsell had an enormous crowd gathered in front of him and one of the boys strung gunpowder around the outer circle of listeners. The people were so intent on hearing what Judge Hellsell had to say that they did not see him. Well, the other fellow lit a match to the gunpowder and you should have seen the people scatter.

After all the flowery oratory people would visit for a while and promptly at twelve o'clock roast ox would be served and all the crackers and coffee you wanted. The beef was furnished by

Frank White who came to Sioux Rapids in 1881 at the age of 25.

It would take several days to roast the ox in a pit outdoors. Someone skilled in this profession would do this. Picnic lunches would be spread out under a shade tree. Plenty of time elapsed after eating, for those barbeques were real feasts, and at two o'clock the program continued.

All of Sioux Rapids gathered on hot, dusty main street amid lemonade stands and concessions to watch the potato, three-legged races, sack races and many others.

Great crowds came to the celebration and the board sidewalks were lined with people to see the races. These were followed by the ball games between Sioux Rapids and a nearby town.

Those not interested in baseball played horse shoes. Horse racing was popular. Sometimes the traveling horse would take the money and our boys the experience and sometimes it was the other way around.

At one celebration they had a balloon ascension. It was a breath-taking spectacle. The big balloon was moored down and filled with gas. And then it slowly rose, with the man dangling from the swing beneath. It drifted for a while rising higher and higher. People shouted back and forth, wondering where it would land. Some tried to follow it. Later a horse and buggy was sent out to pick up the man.

At a celebration which took place July 4, 1895, Prof. Brady thrilled a mammoth crowd down by the old mill in the Little Sioux River by jumping off the 80 foot mill.

The scene on main street was something like this: People were everywhere, teams hitched to





buggies, surries and wagons were tied to the hitching posts provided along the street. The ladies were gowned in beautiful, ruffled dresses, wearing big, plumed hats, carrying a gay parasol in one hand and lacy fan in the other. Men wore top hats and mingled together, discussing important topics of the day. American flags waved in the breeze from a wire strung across the street.

Picnic baskets came out of hiding about 5:30 or 6:00 and families retreated to the park where they partook of their refreshments. Later, children would peep over the edge of the pit at the bare carcass of the ox.

Then came the grandest sight of all, "The fireworks." The gorgeous display of color, the roar of the giant firecrackers and the hiss of the Roman candles is something no one can forget.

After that came the dances, of which everyone took part in. At last came the time to say "Good night." Families were loaded in the wagons and surries, children cuddled on their mother's laps and dozed off and the ride home in the moonlight ended another celebration.

In 1905 Sioux Rapids celebrated its 50th anniversary on August 3, 4, and 5. An elaborate preparation was made for the entertainment at which 10,000 people attended. Some of the best known speakers in Iowa were there and among them the early settlers of the Northwest were present for the three day celebration. Gov. Cummins was there, and other speakers were Judge Robinson of Sioux City, C. F. Curtis of Ames, F. F. Faville and Senator E. E. Mack of Storm Lake.

A big street parade of the old settlers driving prairie schooners, floats containing log cabins and other items was held on the second day. There were also street sports every day, ball games for the championship of Buena Vista county, balloon ascensions, aerial acts and in fact anything that would make a celebration a success.

The town began celebrating "Tall Corn Days" in about 1934. Entries for the tallest stalk of corn are made. Three prizes are awarded for the tallest stalk. These are gala events too with big parade, ball games, amateur shows, Queen contests, and side shows. They have become annual affairs and are looked forward to each year by young and old alike.

The merchants of Sioux Rapids gave away a brand new Plymouth coach in 1937. With each \$5.00 worth of coupons a person was entitled to a chance on the new car.

The town has always had a good ball team. In this era Sioux Rapids was honored to have the "Boston Bloomer Girls" play the "Mighty Men's Town Team." The outcome of this game was never recorded so there is a possibility that the fellows weren't trying too hard, as Sioux Rapids has had some real slugging baseball teams, such

as the "Gas House Gang" in 1913. Another outstanding team although not baseball was the dashing football team of 1903.

Things were progressing nicely, and the people still found much relaxation by doing the current dances of the day, such as the square dance, waltz, polka, and the schottische. The young folks really got "hepped" about such songs as "After the Ball," "Two Little Girls in Blue," "The Little Black Mustache," "Clementine," "Putting on the Style," "Sidewlaks of New York," and "Ta-ra-ra-Boom-de-a."

#### THE SIOUX RAPIDS CORNET BAND

The S. R. band; the S. R. band,  
Long may those musicians stand.  
A happy and festive crowd,  
And blow their "tooters" long and loud.  
First Cramott with his solo B  
The "Artist" you all see,  
While Jansen on First B cornet  
Helps Cramott out, you bet.  
Chas. Watkins on E flat blows  
And also sometimes blows his nose.  
He wears a cadet suit of blue,  
And blows his horn both loud and true.  
Beacher Ward with his Solo Alto  
Blows strains of sweetest melody  
And Anderson with his First Alto  
Blows after beats from eve to morn.  
W. H. Beaver next to Anderson sits  
And gives the Tenor fits.  
There's H. J. Pond who is still on hand  
And on Baritone is right on hand.  
On deep toned Tuba Munger blows  
And by his execution shows  
That though he is but a beginner  
He blows it like an old dutch sinner.  
Then Duroe on the Tenor Drum  
With rapid movements makes it hum.  
And Middleton with his bass drum stick  
Rains blows on sheepskin fast and thick.  
And Prof. Munger, we know him well,  
He often gives us band boys h—  
But let us not from duty swerve,  
We don't get half that we deserve.

A. Sharp

This poem was written for one of the early bands. Cyril Anderson is now the lucky owner of it.

Every child remembers what fun it was when a peddler came selling their wares. In the eighties it was hard for the women to get to town, because the horses were needed in the field, and not many farm homes had a special driving horse. It was times like that when peddlers brought their merchandise to the farms. They were always of a happy go lucky sort and knew the news for miles around. Mothers were fascinated by the beautiful pieces of material, the lovely laces, and fancy, colorful ribbons. If only she could stretch the egg money far enough to







JULY FOURTH CELEBRATION—1898—SIOUX RAPIDS

have a new dress. Still talking, the peddler would display, thread, buttons, needles, corn salve, fly paper, red bandanas, tea, spices and just about anything you can think of he had in that little wagon. He was always willing and ready to buy old rubber overshoes, rags and iron. Brooms would stick out on the side of the wagon or be piled high on top. Some times he gave the happy, shouting children bits of candy or maybe a piece of licorice.

Another types of people that would especially fascinate the children were the roving bands of gypsies with their bright clothes, shiny bracelets, and pretty beads. They usually had horses to trade and would steal corn along the road to feed them. Many yipping dogs followed the wagons, or played with the dark-skinned youngsters of which there was always a great number. The gypsy ladies were always happy to tell your fortune for a few bits of silver and would always make you believe she knew more, if you would but cover her palm with more silver.

For many years the George B. Sweet tent show came to town to put on the latest plays. People came for miles around to hear these as they were very good. Candy was sold in boxes between acts. Sometimes a coupon was in a box and this entitled the holder to a free gift. There has been a few of these shows in the last few years. The last one was held in the park.

Ice cream socials have always been lots of fun on a hot summers night. These were generally held along about strawberry time. Freezers of home made ice cream were made ahead of time and topped with generous helpings of strawberries. Or perhaps some preferred home made cherry or apple pie with their ice cream.

Sioux Lanes, at Sioux Rapids, has been a popular place for both young and old, for more than

fifteen years. The four lanes were constructed in 1940 by H. N. Leikvold and bowlers from Cornell, Albert City, Webb, Marathon, Linn Grove, Laurens Truesdale and many other towns come here to enjoy that sport. Each year from 32-36 teams compete. Mr. and Mrs. Percy Spurlock are proprietors of this fine recreational center that provides a great deal of fun and exercise for hundreds of people throughout the Sioux Rapids area.

Another group of people that have lots of fun are the North West Iowa Trail Riders. A group of horse lovers met at the Trucken Leather Shop in Storm Lake April 25, 1942 to form what is known as the North West Trail Riders Club at which Lee Lupton of Sac City was elected President, Lew Crane of Aurelia Vice President and Mrs. Rae Webster of Peterson, Secretary and Treasurer. The first ride was at Storm Lake on May 3, 1942, with 64 horses joining in the parade down main street with hundreds of people watching it. There were 38 memberships sold that day, and the club has grown to more than 330 members in 1954. Distance doesn't seem to mean anything when wanting to enjoy a trail ride, as they have been known to come as far as a hundred miles in every direction to the rides at Sioux Rapids. There is always a potluck dinner which is enjoyed by the families and friends of the riders. There has been over 175 horses and as many as 375 or 400 people at some of the rides. There are several nice rides and shows included for the summer of 1955.

There are many annual events that take place in Sioux Rapids. Since 1951 the Sioux Rapids Lion's club have put on a show two nights. These have proved very popular and have been shown also several times in Rossie and this last year it was featured at Webb. These plays are directed





by Mrs. S. O. Knudson and the proceeds go for summer playground for Sioux Rapids.

Pancake Day is celebrated each fall. In 1951 more than 5,000 pancakes, 150 pounds of sausage, 36 pounds of butter and 15 gallons of syrup and over 200 gallons of coffee were served to the huge crowd. This affair is generally held inside the Thompson Lumber Yard.

Approximately the same number of people were on hand two years before to greet Guy Gabrelson, a native son, when he spoke in front of the library after being named National Chairman of the Republican Party.

Some of the local men are members of the famous Linn Grove Male Chorus. They have appeared at the Tall Corn Day celebrations, television and many other outstanding events.

This year over 200 children participated in the annual Chamber of Commerce Easter egg hunt in the Sioux Rapids city park. Each child also received a candy bar and a number of children found eggs that entitled them to free movie tickets to the Sioux Theatre.

Cribbage tournaments are held every other Thursday night in the public library and each winter for those that care to play. Sometimes they play with the men from Linn Grove.

Governor Beardsley spoke at a Friday afternoon tea for all the women of Buena Vista and Clay County on September 26, 1952. This event took place in the Library Building.

Len Howe, the widely heard Des Moines news broadcaster, made a personal appearance at the Arnett Hardware store. Along with Len Howe, Arnetts had all the free peanuts the visitors wanted to consume. At the close of this happy event the floor of the hardware was literally covered with peanut shells. Mr. Arnett also gave away valuable door prizes.

A new ice skating rink was constructed by the Lions Club for the youngsters in 1954. The rink is located near the Legion Hall. It has proved very popular to youngsters and adults for night skating. The ice rink is lighted and there is a place for bonfires nearby.

Another event that is gaining popularity is the free coon feast that is promoted by Mr. and Mrs. Bud Dennis and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dennis. The first time this event took place only one coon was served, then it increased to six, then to ten or twelve, and last year over twenty coons were served to the growing crowds.

Along with the coons the Dennis's serve generous helpings of dressing, pickles, cheese and sandwiches. The coons were obtained by Bud and Harold along the Little Sioux River on different hunting trips.

In 1953 the first organized Halloween program was sponsored in Sioux Rapids. The success in this event was outstanding and the cooperation of organizations, school faculties and individuals was one hundred per cent.

Refreshments were served at the close of each different age group party and then a free show was presented at the Sioux Theatre.

Straw Hat Day is recognized each year by the men of Sioux Rapids.

Last year the men of Sioux Rapids protested against wearing long pants in the sweltering heat that dominated this area so around twenty-five business men ventured out in Bermuda shorts.

E. E. Thomas, 77, donned a top hat with his shorts. Expressions of amusement and amazement were reflected on the faces of bystanders as they viewed those wearing shorts.

Father and Son and Mother and Daughter Banquets are held in each of the churches every year.

There is also a large group of Cub Scouts which provide much fun and entertainment for the younger group of boys.

Each year there are Memorial Day exercises in the Lone Tree Cemetery. Service men attend in uniform. The program commences with the parade. Services at the cemetery follow a usual pattern with the following program:

National Anthem.

Flag Raising Ceremony.

Band Selection.

Chaplain's Prayer.

Memorial Day Address.

Placing of Wreaths.

Thirty Seconds of Silence.

Firing Squad.

Taps.

As the Christmas season draws near big plans are made for the different festivities. Streets are decorated with holly and greens. Business men have drawings and give away valuable prizes. The favorite old Christmas carols are sung. The churches celebrate the Birth of Christ. There is a feeling of "Peace on earth and good will towards man," everywhere. There is school vacation for the youngsters and parties for everyone.

During the school year, many events that are memorable to those attending such as the Halloween parties, the Junior-Senior banquet, Skip Day, Baccalaureate and graduation exercises, Music contests, Basketball tournaments, Homecoming, Baseball and other sport events.

A teen-age youth center was started in the public library this past year by Mrs. C. F. Kischer. Mothers of the different classes serve the lunches. Dancing has proven lots of fun here and there are those that like to gather here and just visit or talk over the basketball games.

The firemen's ball is another annual event that is held at the Logvillian or at Cobblestone in Storm Lake. This year tickets sold for this event could be used also at the Sioux Theatre.

Yes, all down through the years Sioux Rapids has been buzzing with activity and the social events will remain long in the memory of the people as happy times in the Little Sioux Valley.





# Uncle Johnny Burr and the Death of Abner Bell



UNCLE JOHNNIE BURR  
Early Hunter and Trapper

John Burr has been identified with the history of the Northwest from that picturesque period in which the broad plains were unsettled and gave little evidence of soon becoming a popular and well-developed region.

The fact that he had been a trapper, hunter, scout and soldier will give some evidence of his varied experiences and interesting incidents of his life.

His experience as a soldier in the Civil War began in 1861 when he enlisted as a member of Company G, Twelfth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He served for three years and participated in every march, skirmish, and battle of his regiment with a spirit of loyalty that none who knew him will question.

After the war, Mr. Burr returned to Grand Rapids, Mich., where he ran a ranch for some time. He came from Grand Rapids to Des Moines by team and thence to Decorah where he spent one winter before coming to Buena Vista County in December of 1867.

Mr. Burr was known throughout the Northwest as an old hunter and trapper. He caught deer, elk, wild turkey and all kinds of smaller game, and for years engaged in trapping along the Little Sioux.

He was very much in evidence at all Fourth of July celebrations. His never-failing quotation was "Tippecanoe and Tyler too, Hurrah for the Union!"

Just as he was a good soldier and a good trapper, he was also a good and faithful friend, for we find he was faithful to his old friend, Abner Bell unto the very end.

Bell had settled in Sioux Rapids, where he spent the sunset years of his life, eventually answering the final call to which everyone is subject.

Before his summons he was taken sick in his little cabin. Trying to rise, in his weakness, he fell against the fire and was badly burned.

Uncle Johnny Burr watched over him faithfully, and he was later moved to another place on First Street so that he could be given better care.

In this place he answered that "last call" with Uncle Johnny Burr at his bedside.

Mrs. Burr and her daughter, Josie, sat with the body that night, and he was laid to rest in the Lone Tree Cemetery in Sioux Rapids in 1895.

Thus ended the career of the man who did so much for our town. He lived a rich and colorful life, playing a very important role in the early history of Sioux Rapids.

## Famous People

Sioux Rapids has had its share of people who have gained distinction either in the development of the local community or in the pursuit of some activity after leaving here. Some have done both.

We must give credit to the pioneers who came to this locality and remained to give important service in developing it into a modern com-

munity, in contrast with the many who came here for speculative reasons and left after a brief period. The first such person is Abner Bell who indeed was the "Daniel Boone" of Buena Vista County. He came here in 1856 and remained to die here in 1895. He was a pillar of strength during the many Indian scares of the early years, and he aided in the organization of the county





and also of the towns of Sioux Rapids and Linn Grove. He held several county offices at various times.

William S. Lee came in 1858 and died here in 1908. He was the first real estate man in this locality and took a prominent part in county affairs. He was instrumental in bringing many people to this locality. In 1859 he brought the first group of Norwegians here from Allamakee County. The group was composed of Knudt Stennerson, O. A. Reng, Christian Johnson, and Henry and Ole Gulickson, all of whom remained here and have descendants here at this time. The influx of Norwegians during the ten years following 1859 settled on the major portion of the land of both Lee and Barnes townships.

James M. Hoskins, a veteran of the Civil War, came here in 1869. He was elected county recorder in 1870 and held this office for one term. In 1872, he started the first drug store which he operated until he and Mr. James F. Toy of Storm Lake started the first bank here in 1881. In 1883, he sold his bank interest and went into the real estate business. He served as postmaster, county supervisor, school board member, and Sioux Rapids' first mayor when the town was incorporated in 1882. He died here in 1919.

Judge Lot Thomas came to Sioux Rapids to practice law when it was the county seat in 1871 and remained here until the county seat was moved to Storm Lake in 1878. He served as county attorney and later was elected to the United State Congress in 1898 which office he held until the year of his death in 1905.

F. F. Faville began the practice of law in Sioux Rapids in 1892 and remained here until he was elected county attorney in 1895. He was appointed United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa in 1907 by President Theodore Roosevelt.

Judge F. H. Helsell came to Sioux Rapids in 1882 to practice law. In addition to a large private practice he became the local attorney for five railroads including Chicago and Northwestern and the Illinois Central. In 1898 he was elected judge of the district court and served for two and one-half years when he retired to take care of extensive private business. He organized five different National banks—those at Marathon, Laurens, Peterson, Havelock and Spencer and also was interested in banks in Sioux Rapids and Greenville. He left Sioux Rapids in 1910 for Fort Dodge to become attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad for Iowa. He held this position for the rest of his active life. Then this work was taken over by his son, Charles. Charles Helsell was born in Sioux Rapids and went with his father to Fort Dodge. He is now general counsel for the Illinois Central Railroad and lives in Chicago, Illinois.

George E. Farmer was born in Sioux Rapids and was the son of J. P. Farmer who was the

President of the Sioux Rapids Bank in which F. H. Helsell was interested. George Farmer became an attorney and is now living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he is prominent in legal circles and he was Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

Frank A. Gabrielson who operated a hardware in Sioux Rapids from 1882 to 1907 had two sons who achieved distinction nationally. The elder of the two, Ira N. Gabrielson, became the Director of the Biological Survey in the United States Department of Agriculture and is the author of several books concerning wild life.

Guy C. Gabrielson took up the study of law and is now a prominent corporation lawyer in the Wall Street area in New York City. He also served for a time as the chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Carl Reng, who is the grandson of the O. A. Reng who came to Sioux Rapids in 1859, went into the field of education and now is the President of Arkansas State College, Jonesville, Arkansas.

Mr. Otis King, who grew up in Sioux Rapids, worked for a while in a bank here and then left for the West where he tried various jobs including the discovery of a mountain of molybdenum ore which became the now famous climax Molybdenum Company, which is the only source of this metal in the world. The metal is used as an alloying material for the making of extra strong steel. He also has many other financial interests in Denver as well as vast ranch properties.

Mr. Norman H. Crowell came to Sioux Rapids with his bride, Grace Noll Crowell in, 1901 and worked in a bank here until 1904. Since leaving here both he and his wife became famous in the literary world. He was a writer of outdoor articles, short stories and verse. His wife won renown as a poet. Mr. Norman Crowell died at Dallas in 1953. Mrs. Grace Noll Crowell still lives in Dallas, Texas.

Sioux Rapids has been the birthplace and boyhood home of two state representatives. Oliver Landsness, who served several terms, and Mr. Wendell Pendleton who is the present incumbent of the office from this district. J. N. Brown was born in Sioux Rapids in the late seventies. In early boyhood his parents moved to a farm near the Sioux Valley Lutheran Church west of Rembrandt. The schoolhouse near the farm became known as the Brown school and is still so spoken of. John Brown became a minister in the Lutheran Church and was later installed as President of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota. He held this position until he retired a few years ago.

J. P. Farmer was one of the early bankers, being President of the Bank of Sioux Rapids. He came originally from Boston. His two sons George and William have more or less dis-





tinguished themselves. George has already been mentioned. Bill is one of the leading Life Insurance Agents in Cleveland.

Mrs. Nellie Pratt Duroe—is still living here—being one of the early teachers in the Sioux Rapids schools. She is the daughter of W. H. Pratt, already mentioned as the first depot agent of the Chicago, North Western Railroad. Mrs. Duroe was six years old when she came here. She attended school here and after graduating, she attended school in Illinois where she secured a first grade certificate. Mrs. Duroe taught in the Clay County schools and then was offered a job in the Sioux Schools. Forty-five dollars per month was the most she ever got for teaching. She was the highest paid teacher in the grades.

Charles B. Mills started his career in Sioux Rapids in 1882 as a young man with the Chicago Northwestern Railroad Construction Company as Telegraph Operator. Later he helped to organize the Security State Bank known as Moe-Hullett-Mills Bankers. Later on, he was made President of the First National Bank of Sioux Rapids, and the same time was connected with First State Bank of Laurens and First National of Rembrandt. Then from Sioux Rapids he moved to Clinton where he became affiliated with the Peoples Trust & Savings Bank of that city. Later he was made President of the Midland National Bank of Minneapolis. In 1902 he was elected President of the Iowa State Bankers Association, and a few years later he was elected Vice-President of the American Bankers Association. He passed away in November, 1954. He was a Shriner and Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

Frank D. White arrived in Sioux Rapids in the early eighties and was one of the first to open a general merchandise store, known as the F. D. White & Son Store. In connection with the store he was also very much interested in the cattle business operating a big feed yard. Frank was always the first one to open up the store in the mornings. You could always see him come dashing down town on his horse after he had been caring for his cattle at the feed yard, generally about 6 a.m.

His nephew, Frank White, was brought up in Sioux Rapids and is now one of the Vice-Presidents of the Clark Manufacturing Company in Rockford, Illinois, a very large company with national distribution of its products.

Ed J. Norris was one of the first tailors in Sioux Rapids during the early days. His two sons, Jean and Everett, have been very successful in their business adventures. Jean is State Representative for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. in South Dakota. Everett attended Iowa University where he later became Secretary to the President of Iowa University following graduation. Later he became interested in International Banking having worked with Mr. Parker

in the settlement of German reparations following World War I. Then later became affiliated with J. P. Morgan Company, 23 Will Street, where he now serving as one of the Vice-Presidents of that Company.

August Lundvall was one of the first Drug Store operators in Sioux Rapids. His son, Charles J. Lundvall, who was brought up in Sioux Rapids, is now District Manager of the National Tube Company, a subsidiary of U. S. Steel Co., with offices in Atlanta. Charley manages the entire Southeastern District for the National Tube Co. with several sales representatives under his supervision and doing an outstanding sales job.

Carl B. Mills, son of Charles B. Mills, also was brought up in Sioux Rapids, and distinguished himself in World War II—being promoted to the rank of Brig. General. Recently retired from service, and is now Regional Manager, Post Office Department, Minneapolis.

I. B. Christianson was also one of the early settlers and one of the first to open a general merchandise store. He continued in business for 52 years. He is now 93 years old and living here in Sioux Rapids. And sad to say, totally blind, but with a good memory of what happened during the early days of Sioux Rapids.

He is better known as I. B. to his friends. He came to Sioux Rapids at the age of fourteen to visit his uncle O. B. Christianson. He liked the town so well he decided to make this his permanent home. In later years, his mother and sister came here and he provided a home for them.

He was born in Chrisitania, Norway, July 12, 1860, and is the son of C. B. Christenson, who came to America in 1865. He worked for Marshall Field in Chicago and then came to Sioux Rapids where he worked for Jacobson and Halverson, and later for James Ray & Son. In 1885 he started his own store. The I. B. Christianson Store was a business of Sioux Rapids from 1885 until 1937, a period of 52 years. This store name, known throughout northwest Iowa, ended when the new Highway 71 was brought through Sioux Rapids at that time, requiring the land on which his store and others were located.

Julia Christenson, a cousin has kept house for him for several years and despite his handicap he takes an active interest in what goes on, especially what happens in Sioux Rapids. He enjoys listening to the radio and visiting with friends who drop in. Although very modern in all his thoughts, he says he does not believe he would like to ride in an airplane, and he thinks people are foolish to live in big cities.

He is a citizen of worth who has never been so absorbed in his own affairs as to forget his duty to his fellowmen or to the community at large.

## LUELLA FAIRCHILD

Mrs. Luella Fairchild, daughter of the late Mr.





and Mrs. John Hoskins, was born in 1872. Her family came to Iowa from New England as homesteaders and settled one mile north of Pickerel Lake.

Mrs. Charles Gates Dawes, wife of the vice-president of the United States in 1920, was a cousin of Mrs. Hoskin's mother.

The family lived near Pickerel Lake for two years and then moved to Sioux Rapids.

Mrs. Fairchild had five brothers and three sisters. A twin brother and sister were the first twins born in Sioux Rapids.

She attended her first school in a two-room school building, where the Methodist Church now stands. Luella was a member of the first graduating class. She was a teacher at Cornell for ten years.

In 1910 she was united in marriage to I. R. Fairchild. They lived on a farm for ten years before moving to Sioux Rapids.

Her hobby and favorite pastime is her flowers and garden and she especially loves good music.

For the past twenty-seven years she has been librarian in the Sioux Rapids Memorial Library. She has seen the library grow from a few books

to many, and has helped move it each time in its many locations before the new library was built.

You will find her busy at her job each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday afternoon from 3 to 5 o'clock and from 7 to 9 o'clock Saturday evening.

She is very proud of the new Memorial Library.

As librarian she has met and helped many different adults and children choose good books to read. She is always willing to help the community in every way that she can.

Mrs. Fairchild has been in three different *Who's Who* books in Iowa. These books contain over five thousand biographical histories of leading people in the state of Iowa, and are published by Larkin L. T. D. and contain over seven hundred pages.

She is also one of thirteen hundred American women to be in the *British Who's Who*, a book similar to America's *Who's Who*.

During this Centennial year she has been very helpful in giving many historical facts about Sioux Rapids.

She is one of the few remaining early settlers of this town.

## Interesting People

### JOHN G. RENG AND ANNA MARIE SEVERSON

John G. Reng and Anna Marie Severson were married New Year's day, 1889, at the home of the bride's parents near Sioux Rapids. They moved immediately to the farm which is now occupied by the Julius Reng family.

Mr. Reng's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Reng, were the first couple married in Buena Vista county. They were married in Sioux Rapids, which was the county seat and the only town between Fort Dodge and Sioux City.

John Reng was born the next year on August 25, 1861 on what is known as the Torkelson farm. He was one of the first three white children born in Buena Vista county. The other two were twins, a boy and a girl, born to the Weavers, Reng's neighbors. As the boy twin passed away, John Reng was the oldest living man born in Buena Vista county.

Shortly after his birth he went with his parents to Fort Dodge to escape from the same Indians who had committed the Spirit Lake massacre in 1857. Eight families went to Fort Dodge at this time, leaving only Abner Bell and Tork Torkelson to fight the Indians. The story is told at this time Abner Bell was captured by the Indians, who took him out to a grove a mile east of Sioux Rapids where he was forced to climb trees and scare out the squirrels so the Indians could shoot them.

In 1870 Mr. Reng returned with his parents to Sioux Rapids from Spring Grove, Minnesota, where they had been living. While the family was living in Minnesota, Mr. Reng was baptized in the shade of a large tree by an itinerant minister. John Reng, who was nine years old at the time, walked all the way to Iowa, driving the cattle. Until the time of his marriage, at twenty-seven years, he stayed at home and worked with his father.

When John Reng was twenty he bought his first land, which he moved onto immediately after he was married and on which he has lived for some time.

This land was eighty acres of land secured from the Milwaukee railroad about the time it was coming through Spencer, which was then a new town. It was purchased on a contract, no money down, with an agreement to pay \$5.00 per acre, the railroad agreeing to refund \$1.50 per acre for every acre that he would break up the first year. This land is in the southern part of Clay county.

At the time of his marriage he bought another 80 acres of land, this time from speculators contracting for it at \$10.00 an acre.

Mrs. Reng, who was born in Norway in 1872, came with her mother to America in 1873. They came on a sailboat, taking seven weeks to cross. Her father had come to America, "the land of promise," the year before, and had sent money





back for the mother and five children. It was necessary for them to bring their own food and dishes for the entire trip. In 1881 her family came from Illinois to a farm near Sioux Rapids.

The Rengs have three sons, all of whom are living. They are Carl, George and Oscar. Also four grandchildren, Julius, Raymond, John and Marilyn.

John Reng passed away December 13, 1947, at his home in Sioux Rapids.

### **OLE A. MOGSTER FAMILY**

The Ole Mogster family came to Sioux Rapids in the year 1868. They bought the present Mogster farm from the Illinois Central railroad for seven dollars an acre. This farm home contained eleven bedrooms.

The family consisted of four girls and five boys, seven of which were born after they came to Sioux Rapids. Only "Ransom" and one sister, "Hattie" are living, one son, John, died of the dreaded smallpox disease.

Mr. Mogster passed away in 1932 at the age of 93 years.

### **MRS. ALBERT HANSON**

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Tollagson and their daughter Lena (Mrs. Albert Hanson) came from Fort Dodge in 1866 and lived for nine months with their friends, the Torkel Torkelson family. Due to the dislike of the plain prairie life here, they decided to go back to Fort Dodge to work at his trade in the Cooper shop (barrel making). Two years later in 1868 they returned by covered wagon and oxen. They purchased their farm from the Railroad Company, and built a sod house near the road, and also a Cooper shop. They lived in the sod house for twelve years.

Then they built the frame house, part of which still stands on the former Albert Hanson farm, now occupied by the Bendix Halverson family. This farm has been in the family for five generations.

Mr. Tollagson used to walk to Newell, catch the morning train, and get to Fort Dodge by noon, then proceed to make barrels, when help was needed at the Cooper shop.

Indians were commonly seen in this locality at that time and frequently would frighten Mrs. Hanson on her way to school. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hanson were married in 1883 and lived on the same farm for 67 years, Mrs. Hanson having lived there on the same farm for 82 years.

### **HANS AND RAGNILD OLSON**

From Mrs. Raymond Olson comes this interesting story.

Hans Olson and wife, Ragnild Olson, who originally came from Norway, to Winneshiek County, Iowa, were one of the first pioneers to settle near Sioux Rapids, Iowa. In 1866 Hans and Ragnild Olson together with their two small

children, Ole and Anna, traveled by covered wagon from Winneshiek County to a farm in Buena Vista County, near where Rembrandt now stands. This farm is now located 1 mile north and ½ mile west of the town of Rembrandt, which of course was not there then. During those first pioneer days there were only three buildings between Storm Lake and Sioux Rapids.

Hans and Ragnild Olson built a sod house to live in. It was only partially above ground, resembling a cave. They used to tell that after they finished this home that no sooner were the steps built than along came their third child Theodore hopping up the steps. So this home was not completed any too soon. The family lived in this sod house several years before building a log house.

The Tollof Knudtson family lived one-half mile west of the Olson family. This was the family of Wallace Knudtson who now lives on a farm north of Sioux Rapids. German Brown was also a neighbor.

Those farmers living fairly close to each other would take turns making the trip to Fort Dodge with oxen for supplies that were needed. Of course these supplies were very meager in those days. Who ever did make the trip would go to Fort Dodge one day and come back later. During the winter months Hans would find it necessary to make the trip to Peterson to get the wheat ground into flour. There was a mill there. Many times he would start out in a blizzard, pulling a sack of wheat on a hand sled. He would have to travel on skis as there were such huge snow drifts on the prairie, many times the drifts were as deep as 32 feet. The tree tops were just barely visible. It was fourteen miles to Peterson and during those trying days Hans would often find it necessary to start out in a blizzard if his family was to have enough to eat. His family never knew when he left if they would see him alive again or if he would lose his way and become buried under the snow. But he always made it, with the Grace of God. In the meantime if the family ran out of wheat flour, Ragnild would substitute corn, ground in their little coffee grinder. The children thought this was fun and fought for the chore.

Hans farmed with oxen. He never used lines to drive them, only the familiar words, "Gee" and "Haw." Which ever oxen wasn't being used was allowed to roam nearby but whenever it was needed all Hans had to do was call it by name and it would come.

Nothing was wasted as it was hard enough to get along. When they broke sod, the red roots were picked up and used for fuel. It was not easy to keep a fire going in the house. During the winter months they brought in flax straw, wet with snow, which would be twisted into small bundles, thrown up in the attic to dry, and later





burned, to heat the home. They burned slough hay and dry cow chips too.

The lamp was a smoky one indeed. It consisted of a wick, which had melted grease poured on it every little while, to keep it burning.

Small grain was cut with a scythe and the grain pounded out by hand.

The corn was planted with a hand planter. The children would finish covering it with their bare-foot heel. Their heels were pretty well blistered before planting was completed.

It was a rough life for the children as well as the parents. They had to herd the cows all day away from home, many times in severe lightning and thunder storms. But they dare not go home till the end of the day.

A son of Hans and Ragnild Olson, Henry Olson, now of Sioux Rapids, remembers his first day at school. He was nine years old when he started and says he wore boots big enough for his father. He talked out loud, so to punish him the teacher made him stand up in front of the room. The other children ridiculed him and his big shoes. So Henry still remembers how embarrassed he was standing there—all he could see was his big shoes.

Another incident Henry recalls with a smile, is the first bicycle. It was only one big wheel. One day his mother saw a man coming from afar on this wheel. She was terribly frightened and thought it was surely the devil. She grabbed the saw and used it to bolt the door, and pulled all the blinds, leaving space under one, to peek out at this strange thing. She cautioned the children not to make a sound as she was afraid it might stop there if they did. But to her relief, it went on by. It was quite some time later that she learned its true identity.

Many times Ragnild did not have enough to feed her children as much as needed. But would have to save a little extra for their father, as it was necessary that he be able to do his strenuous work, to make enough for his family to live on.

Hans and Ragnild were blessed with ten children. The two who came with them in the covered wagon from Winneshiek County, Ole and Anna, besides four more girls, Ida, Helen, Julia, and Rachel. Four more boys were Theodore, John, Charlie and Henry. All these children are deceased except Henry who resides with his wife, Emma, in Sioux Rapids. They have five children: Arthur, Elmer, Eleanora, Dorothy and Leota. Raymond Olson, son of Theodore Olson, lives with his wife and family on the farm which was once his father's, between Webb and Sioux Rapids. Walter Olson, son of John Olson, resides in Sioux Rapids with his mother. These are the only Olson's of this family tree living near Sioux Rapids.

## HISTORY OF THE MRS. GEORGE BROWN FAMILY

Gardner S. Clough with his wife Laura Joslyn Clough, left West Concord, Vermont in the 1840's. They made the trip in a covered wagon to the then wild state of Iowa, settling in Winneshiek County. They brought with them a pearl inlaid Singer sewing machine, and a solid walnut chest of drawers, both very highly prized by Mrs. Clough. When the going got rough Mr. Clough threatened to leave the chest behind, but Mrs. Clough said she'd as soon stay behind herself, as to leave the chest, so they made it to Iowa with both the sewing machine and the walnut chest. The latter now being in possession of Mrs. Geo. F. Brown, who is a granddaughter of the Cloughs.

About 1860 the Gardner Cloughs moved to Waukon, Allamakee County. Mr. Clough enlisted from there, serving during the Civil War. He was in Sheridan's Army when Atlanta fell, and was also in Serman's march to the sea. Mr. Clough was a prisoner for some time but was later released with other prisoners and exchanged for the release of southern prisoners. His health was not the best toward the latter part of the war, so instead of serving in the infantry, he was put to work driving an ambulance. After serving three years as Corporal in Company I, 27th Regiment of Iowa Infantry, he received his honorable discharge on August 8, 1865, at Clinton, Iowa.

In 1866 the Cloughs again came west, landing in what is now Sioux Rapids, on June 15, 1866. They camped beside the sod house of Michael Hollingsworth, on the sight of what was then Hotel Parker. Mr. Clough at once took up a homestead on Section 20, Lee township, consisting of 160 acres. At the present time the south eighty is owned by Mrs. Tom Whitehead and the north eighty by Mrs. Marie Benson.

The family consisted of seven children. The six boys were: Frenando E., Aldine M., Fred M., John F., Casius, who died at the age of four, and William L. who was born in 1870. The little girl, Emily, passed away at the age of six. All have passed on now.

There were quite a few Indians camped around, what was then, Grass Lake about a half mile south of the Clough homestead. They often came to the home, to beg for food, or just out of curiosity. Now and then when fishing and hunting weren't the best, they made off with some of Mrs. Clough's chickens. Mr. Clough died on February 27, 1877 and Mrs. Clough continued to reside on the homestead with her sons until she died on February 17, 1901.

Joseph F. Brown was born near Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin on August 23, 1852. As a young man he helped his father clear their farm of virgin forest that they might plow up fields for cultivation. He worked out in a





number of lumber camps and saw mills, near his home for several years. About 1880 he began to feel the pull of the west. This pull grew so strong that he had to answer it. He came to Iowa, stopped at Sac City, in Sac County, where he took a job on a farm. At the end of the season, after cornpicking was over, he traded his season's labor for a team of mules and old wagon and a few bushels of wheat. Then he came north to Buena Vista County. He located on a piece of prairie land about a mile north of what is now Rembrandt. Here he built a small shack with rough boards running up and down the sides, and a grass and sod roof. He built a shelf on the wall for a table, a bench for a seat, and also built a crude bed. He proceeded to break up this virgin land and grow crops on it.

About this time Mr. Brown took the train to the end of the line, thence by wagon and the last few miles on foot through deep snow to Millbank, S. D., where he married an old school girl friend of his, Miss Jennie E. Tuttle. In 1883 he had purchased 240 acres one mile east of where he had first settled. It was to this place he brought his bride. He had built a small house and had already broken up ground, and started to cultivate the land. This is the farm now owned and occupied by his son, George F. Brown.

Four children were born to the Browns: Lucy who died in infancy, Austin, now deceased, Mina of Des Moines, and George of Sioux Rapids.

In 1893 he built the present house, which still stands. The house being square withstood the strong winds, since at that time there were very few trees.

Mr. Brown purchased a home in Sioux Rapids in 1913, he retired from farm work and with his family moved to that home the following year. Mrs. Brown passed away in 1923 and Mr. Brown on February 10, 1934.

### **J. OLIVER LANDNESS**

J. Oliver Landness was born in Sioux Rapids, Iowa, at that time a mere village, on Dec. 10, 1877. After a short stay in Sioux Rapids he moved with his parents to a farm in Section 28, Lee Township.

At the age of five, he began attending school in what was known as the Clough Schoolhouse, located on the corner of Section 20. He later attended Capital City Commercial College at Des Moines.

Mr. Landness has been engaged in farming all his life and it was in 1907 that he bought the Landness Estate farm. The following year on June 10, he was married to Bertha Smith. They became the parents of three children: Kenneth M. of Sac City; Marjorie A. Sterba of Western Springs, Illinois, and Donald Oliver who gave his life for his country in World War II.

Mr. Landness has always taken an active part in civic affairs, local, state and national. He rep-

resented Buena Vista County in the 52nd and 53rd General Assembly.

He has always been active in Church and Sunday School work and is now semi-retired on the farm and enjoying fairly good health.

### **MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM CUTHBERT SR.**

Mr. and Mrs. William Cuthbert, Sr., came to Sioux Rapids in the early 1870's from Fortlar, Scotland, accompanied by their three sons, Charles, William, Jr., and David. They settled on forty acres of what is part of the Floyd Thompson farm north of Sioux Rapids.

After the mill was built at Sioux Rapids they made many trips to Storm Lake, the early ones were made with oxen. Finally Charles and William, Jr., bought farms adjoining their father's farm, some of the land was bought for as little as \$2.50 an acre and the farm William, Jr., bought in 1889 was occupied by himself and wife until they moved to Sioux Rapids a few weeks before his death on April 23, 1936 and the farm is still owned by his only son, Alex Cuthbert.

### **IRA GABRIELSON**

In an article, entitled "Modern Noah," by Richard L. Neuberger, in the December 24 Sunday issue of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, '12, is described as a "Chubby-faced twentieth century Noah," who, as director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, watches protectively over America's wild creatures. Animals are his life and where they are concerned this Number One guardian of the nation's wildlife has a sixth sense.

The author relates many interesting incidents in Ira's career since he became custodian of America's wild creatures nearly ten years ago which space does not permit reprinting here. However, the following paragraphs taken from the article give one a vivid picture of "Doc," and the all engrossing interest of his life.

"Gabe lives, breathes and talks wildlife. He manages 275 wildlife refuges, with a total area larger than the State of Virginia. Gabe knows that such refuges, by affording animals protected places in which to breed, increase our big-game population. So he takes a real interest in them and roams this vast domain with the enthusiasm of a small boy looking after his house pets. Canadian Mounties know him from his trips to the Arctic, and Mexican game wardens recognize his fat form and short legs from pilgrimages to winter feeding grounds of birds.

"They all call him "Gabe," though he holds a Doctor of Science degree from Oregon State College and heads one of the largest permanent agencies of the Interior Department. No question on wildlife ever stumps Gabe. When hunters in Missouri shoot down a bird they can't identify they say, "Let's send the skin to Gabe. He'll know." When anglers on a California river pull





out a rare trout they have never seen before, one of them is certain to suggest, "Better send this to Gabe. He'll know."

"Ira's interest in wildlife goes back to his boyhood in Sioux Rapids, Iowa, where he first took pictures of his mother's flower garden. In Morningside he majored in biology and read about the slaughter carried on by white men in frantic search for furs and hides. He decided that his career would be spent trying to save the wildlife which had survived.

"In 1912, Gabe married his college sweetheart, Clara Speer, and then went to work for the old U. S. Biological Survey. He was sent to Oregon, where much of the country's big game was making its final stand. In Oregon he became a woodsman as well as a biologist.

"Gabe and his family now reside in a suburb of Washington, D. C., and one look inside the door will indicate Gabe's preoccupation. Bird skins hang everywhere, part of Gabe's collection of 5,000, all treated by himself. Etchings of birds and fish cover the walls. Above the davenport is a painting of antlered elk in the Jackson Hole country of Wyoming. Books on wildlife weigh down the tables.

The Gabrielsons' have four daughters, all wildlife fans, too. Who wouldn't be around Gabe?"

### OTIS KING

Otis King has this to say about his old home town: "I was born in a sod house between Sioux Rapids and Marathon on March 31, 1880 and while a small boy we moved into Sioux Rapids where in 1898 on June 3rd I graduated from the high school in the class with Effie White, Albert Norby, Chas. Clancy, Chas. Helsell, Tib Cuthbert, Oral Thurber, Harry Farmer and others.

As a small boy I remember visiting with Abner Bell at his little shack back of Jim Hoskins'. He was the first settler. And I also remember how each winter the Indians or rather a band of them would come and set up their tepees in the pasture in the woods below the mill pond. If any of us had any pet dogs we had to watch them because the Indians would get them and eat them. I remember so well Johnny Burr and his coonskin cap and his felt boots and the way he could dance around bonfires when we had an election.

Yes, those were the days; and how we liked to fish in the old mill pond and farther up the stream we would go swimming, always in the raw.

I remember visiting with Abbie Gardner at Spirit Lake living alone in her little log cabin. You will recall she was the little white girl that the Indians kidnapped when they massacred all the people in that early day.

### GEORGE THOMPSON

George Thompson is numbered among the

early merchants of Sioux Rapids who was born in Farsund, Norway, the 27th of September, 1848.

When a boy of 15, Mr. Thompson started out as a sailor. During the first year, the ship he was on and two others were wrecked by a storm on an uninhabited island of the Orkney group. Very little food and lack of fresh water caused much suffering during the eighteen days before the men were rescued. They were taken to Scotland and then on home. Mr. Thompson followed the sea for five years and left his ship at Chatham, New Brunswick, where he worked in a saw mill, later making his way to New York, then to Pennsylvania, where he spent several years. He conducted a grocery store in Geneva, Iowa, and also spent one year on a farm.

Mr. Thompson and his family came to Sioux Rapids in 1881 where he was engaged in the grocery business and prospered.

He was married to Jergina Halvorsen in 1877. Mrs. Thompson lived in Sioux Rapids for almost sixty years. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were the parents of five children, one of them being Mrs. R. R. Burr who still resides in Sioux Rapids. Mr. Thompson passed away in 1932.

### WALLACE KNUDTSON

Wallace Knudtson, son of Tollas Knudtson was born in a log cabin January 24, 1875 in Barnes township. He hauled lumber from Fort Dodge to build his other home, he also helped to break the prairie sod in order that crops might be raised.

Mr. Knudtson has always been a member of the Little Sioux Valley church. He is the father of Mrs. Oscar Risvold, Leonard, Irving, Arthur, Ernest of Sioux Rapids, Orville and Floyd of Linn Grove, Josie Samuelson of Sioux Rapids, Mildred of Linn Grove, Clara Mathews of Cherokee, and Tresa Zerbe of Michigan. Mrs. Wallace Knudtson is the daughter of the late Ole Johnson, who lived to be 105 years old and was the oldest man in Iowa at the time of his death.

### GEORGE S. CATE

George S. Cate was born in the Province of Quebec where he grew to manhood and married Anna Moulton. To this union were born Clyde, George and Kenneth, Leah (Mrs. Glen Whiting) and Mildred (Mrs. Earl Burkholder). In 1883 Mr. Cate came to Iowa and soon after that opened a general store at Correctionville. In 1897 he came to Sioux Rapids and entered into business with his brother, O. A. Cate. After his brother moved to Kansas, Mr. Cate continued in business for some time alone and in later years the business was in charge of his sons, George and Kenneth. Mr. Cate's brother, O. A. Cate, still lives in Winfield, Kansas.

During the period from 1897 till 1937, Mr.





Cate was a member of the Odd Fellows, member of the Masonic Lodge, member of the local School Board, and was a member of the Congregational Church at the time of his death October 19, 1940.

### DAVID S. WILLIAMS

David Williams was born in 1842, and in 1869, he and his wife came to Clay County where he lived until 1894. At that time he moved to Sioux Rapids. He passed through all the experiences of pioneer life. In 1869 Mr. Williams made twenty-four trips across the prairie and through the sloughs from Sioux Rapids to Fort Dodge. There were no houses except the Suckow and Schoomaker homes between the two places. Settlers had to depend largely on the food they raised. On more than one occasion Mr. Williams fared on steak fried in muskrat oil. Another year he made forty trips to Fort Dodge. One trip his load became swamped and remained in the slough for over two weeks.

In 1870, in company with D. C. Thomas, David Evans, James Hawkney and Joseph Jones he surveyed the town plat of Sioux Rapids. In the survey Mr. Williams insisted on making the streets wider but as money was scarce this was not allowed but in consequence the town had narrower thoroughfares than would have been secured if Mr. Williams' ideas had been followed.

Mr. Williams was a Civil War veteran and is the father of several children, some of whom are still living near here.

Mr. Williams was a member of the Baptist Church and helped to build the old pioneer church in Douglas Township, the first in Clay County.

### STELLA TORKELSON

The first general store to be established in the area of Iowa extending north of a line from Fort Dodge to Sioux City and west of a line north from Fort Dodge through Algona to the Minnesota line was started in Sioux Rapids in 1869. There had been various ones who had kept certain necessities on hand for sale to the other settlers but none could be considered as having operated a store.

The first store was a partnership of three young men in their early twenties. They were Gustav Gilbert, John Halverson and Henry Jacobson, who all had lived in Allamakee County in northeast Iowa. They arrived in Sioux Rapids on foot from Fort Dodge in the second week of May 1869, and stayed at the home of Ole H. Storla who they knew from Allamakee County. Mr. Storla had come to Sioux Rapids in 1867, and owned the quarter section of land just west of the present day First Street of Sioux Rapids. The quarter section of land east of First Street was then owned by Richard Ridgeway. The land

north of the Ridgeway quarter extending to the river was owned by Michael Hollingsworth with exception of the saw mill area down by the river crossing. The houses located in this area at that time consisted of two small frame houses belonging to the operators of the saw mill, two sod houses, and two or three log houses.

The three partners bought an acre of land from Ole Storla located at the northeast corner of the Storla Quarter, and started to build a store building which was located about where the locker plant on First Street is now located. This building was 26 feet long, 18 feet wide and nine feet high with an upper story for temporary living quarters. When the building was well along, Mr. Gilbert went to Chicago to buy the stock for the store and at the same time Henry Jacobson went back to Allamakee County to get married. The first shipment of goods consisted of three wagon loads which was hauled to Sioux Rapids with borrowed wagons and ox teams. The store was opened the first week in September, 1869. The scattered settlers came there to trade from as far as forty miles away. They handled as much as \$5,000 worth of furs each year that the settlers had trapped and then traded for goods at the store. When the railroad came to Storm Lake in 1871, the long trip to Fort Dodge was not necessary.

In June, 1872, John Halverson withdrew from the partnership. In 1873 Gustav Gilbert also withdrew. Then in 1874 the store stock was moved to the Echo block as it was called, which was located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Main and First Street, and at the same time John Halverson came back into partnership with Henry Jacobson. This partnership lasted about four years when John Halverson withdrew and later left Sioux Rapids as did G. Gilbert also. They both eventually settled in California.

In November of 1880 the Echo block burned down. What stock that was saved was moved to a building owned by Henry Jacobson on the west side of First Street. The store was continued here until 1885 when he sold out to F. D. White, and later went to live on a farm he had acquired some years before.

In 1870 while Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jacobson were living in second story quarters of the original store building a daughter was born who is now Mrs. L. A. Torkelson of Sioux Rapids. She was the second child born in Sioux Rapids and the first girl. She undoubtedly is now the oldest living native of Buena Vista County.

### MRS. MAY HARDY SMITH

A note from Mrs. Hardy, who now lives in Peoria, Ill., tells the following interesting incidents:

"The Roy Barr Smith family arrived in Sioux Rapids in 1901. Our small son, Carvel, spent his first birthday here. We had the first drug store





on First Street, then moved to Main Street, I believe, the store was known as Cone & Smith, then Mr. Cone sold his half interest to Mr. Porterfield. When we decided to move to Clinton, Iowa, we sold to J. P. Winters. Before leaving, however, my husband had an optical practice in Sioux Rapids, which he continued in Humboldt and Clinton, Iowa, until his passing on in 1925.

"Mr. and Mrs. Norman Crowell were our very close friends and in 1903, Grace wrote sacred words for me to sing to the tune of "Just A Wearyin' For You." I was asked to sing it many times and sang it in Sebastopol, California in 1939 or '40 where a friend and I put on a program paying tribute to Grace's poems. We had thirty read by five ladies having them grouped in the topics they were related to."

### AL F. TANCK

From Al F. Tanck comes this interesting story:

"It is not within our scope of memory to recall the exact dates of the occurrences which follow, but they did take place between August, 1897, and January 1, 1905:

"Early in this period the elevator firm of Gifford and Manley and the firm of Cuthbert and Thomas livestock dealers had bought and cribbed thousands of bushels of corn which they had purchased at a price ranging from six to eight cents per bushel. Many farmers at this time were burning their corn for fuel. Several years later these cribs of corn, regardless of all the shrinkage and loss were sold at a neat profit. After the election of President McKinley all prices on farm produce began to rise and when farmers began to realize sixty cents per bushel for corn and hogs sold for six cents per pound on the hoof, our community realized an era of prosperity. Livestock shipments began to boom. Many Saturdays there would be three trainloads of cattle and hogs loaded out for Chicago. And grain was coming into the elevators daily, practically in an endless stream.

"With all good things, we also realized one very bitter experience—the smallpox epidemic. Where our little town had been a beehive of activity, everything came to a virtual stand-still. There were several deaths and this cast gloom over the entire community. In due time everything resumed its normal function. Then came the rumor of a North and South railroad from Albert Lea, Minnesota, to Storm Lake. Some of the old timers were very skeptical as to Sioux Rapids being on this line. They could not realize how it could cross the Little Sioux bottom. Eventually the survey was made and the contract for construction was let to Sundown Scott of St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Scott had built many levees on the Mississippi and another furor arose as to what type of employees he would bring with him; the fear being that he would

bring negroes and mules. He brought very few negroes, but he did bring the most magnificent bunch of mules that had ever been seen in northwestern Iowa, also a most capable number of bridge men. Men who had been employed in the construction of bridges in the Andes and across the Mississippi. It was soon shown that they would have no difficulty in crossing the Little Sioux Valley or any other intervening deep gullies. Rapid progress was being made along the entire line at this time. During this time a certain phenomenon occurred: the rain of the little frogs. One Saturday evening about ten o'clock it was raining and people who were walking could feel small objects striking their legs about the shoe-tops. When they got into a lighted area, they noticed that the objects that were striking their legs, not more than an inch in length, were little frogs. Where they came from, nobody ever knew, as there were no marshy or low watery areas within miles of Sioux Rapids. At this time Fred Crawford was visiting in Sioux Rapids and on Sunday morning, he and Al Tanck took a walk to see how the excavation for the abutment for the steel pier of the Little Sioux Bridge was coming along. This excavation was approximately twenty feet wide, twenty feet deep and ten feet across the top. When we looked down into it, it was approximately half filled with little frogs.

About 1903 Sioux Rapids was visited by a terrific hail storm. Hail as large as pullet eggs that broke out sixteen hundred or more window panes and did an immense amount of damage otherwise.

There were two other disastrous events that occurred about this same time—the fire that burned the mill and the one that consumed Lyman Johnson's residence. Also in this connection may be mentioned the failure of W. E. Brown's Merchants Bank, which entailed some losses to some depositors. During all these years there existed quite a feud between James Hoskins, who was the publisher of the *Sioux Rapids Republican* and F. H. Helsell, who was the vice president of the Bank of Sioux Rapids, who had aligned himself with B. W. Talcott, publisher of the *Sioux Rapids Press*. There was constant bickering between the editorial columns, sometimes of a very mean, personal nature, directed at one another. This was finally eliminated when Charles Colwell and J. E. Durkee consolidated the two papers under the name of the *Sioux Rapids Republican-Press*.

It would not be proper, the fact at this time, Sioux Rapids was very fortunate in having two high class eating-houses, the Parker Hotel and Paul's Cafe. The Parker House at this time was a meal-stop for three of the four daily passenger trains that passed through Sioux Rapids on the Northwestern. The popularity of this hotel





*Sioux Rapids Centennial*

**PROGRAM**



August 1, 2 and 3, 1955

Sioux Rapids, Iowa





# SIoux RAPIDS CENTENNIAL CORPORATON

presents

## "SOORAMA"

(Echoes Along the Little Sioux)

A JOHN B. ROGERS PRODUCTION

City Park

Sioux Rapids, Iowa

August 1, 2 and 3

SAM GROGG

Producer and Director

Walter A. Simonsen, Organist

## "SOORAMA"

SYNOPSIS OF THE SCENES

### "PROLOGUE"

A fanfare of trumpets heralds the arrival of our Centennial Queen, preceded by the Centennial Princesses, Pages and Court Attendants of the Entourage . . . Down the "Avenue of Flags" comes her majesty, as the State Girls, the United Nations Princesses, Military Cadets and the United States Jackies pay their homage to the Queen.

#### SCENE 1—OLD TIMERS INTRODUCTION

We acquaint you with a wholly fanciful character. . . A Pioneer Personage who will reappear at various times in our story, to "kinda explain an' mebbe emphasize a point or two that you folks 'oul otherwise be likely to overlook". . . An ancient fellow we shall affectionately call "The Old Timer."

#### SCENE 2—TRANSPORTATION INTRODUCTION

Since we are still in the Present and would like to take you back to the past and re-live it as if it were happening at this moment we make the transition by gradual stages, taking you from your airplane slowly backward in time on an automobile, then the "horseless carriage", from which we carry you by Old Dobbin and the "buggy", thence on an ox-drawn covered wagon, and for the final journey, place you on an Indian drag or "travois". . . Now you are back there more than a Century ago . . . Now you find yourself in the wilderness of yesteryear, but for you it is Today.

#### SCENE 3—RED MAN'S LAND

For countless moons the Sioux Indians lived in their teepee-studded villages here in Sioux Rapids; families lived, lovers mated and old men shivered awhile at the camp fires and passed to the land of the spirit.

#### SCENE 4—INDIAN VILLAGE

The Sioux Indians lived in their picturesque villages, criss-crossed by the hunting paths which follow along the green banks of the river. . . Here they seek the plentiful wild game, grow their corn and fish the primitive streams . . . Here they commune with nature and offer their quaint ceremonial rituals and tribal dances in an effort to worship or appease the Great Spirit.

#### SCENE 5—FATHERS OF THE BLACK ROBE

The first pale-faced and strange member of the "White Gods" to greet the awed Red Man and to share their portion was the devout French Catholic Priest.

#### SCENE 6—TRAIL OF TEARS

As the need for land pushed the frontier westward

the Indians were moved to Government Reservations in Kansas and some further westward.

#### SCENE 7—LANE & RAY WESTWARD SURVEY

A federal act in 1851 set off one half of the state of Iowa into 50 counties. It was in 1855 that Lane and Ray, two surveyors, came to Buena Vista County and staked a claim on the Little Sioux River which was later to become Sioux Rapids.

#### SCENE 8—HOME IN THE WILDERNESS

Abner Bell, William Weaver and the Totton's returned with Lane and Ray in 1856 to build a log house and become the first permanent white settlers.

#### SCENE 9—SIOUX'S RAID

As our little Band of Settlers prepare for winter they are attacked by a band of marauding Sioux who are on the war path.

#### SCENE 10—RETURN TO FORT DODGE

The pioneers realized privation that first winter—with the blizzards killing all of the wild meat, and the Indians stealing all of their provisions. So with broken spirit, they returned to Fort Dodge and safety.

#### SCENE 11—WAGONS WESTWARD TO NEW HOMES

The hardy pioneers rest from their labors as they gather around the campfire . . . As they offer a simple prayer for their safe keeping . . . the assemblage partake of an evening meal. Now the fiddlers appear and tune up as the hand clapping begins and everyone "Squares Away" for a lively square dance.

#### SCENE 12.—THE CIRCUIT RIDER

The first religious services were held in log cabins by Circuit Riders.

#### SCENE 13. THE FIRST CHURCH

Everyone attended church in the early days. The first church established in Sioux Rapids was in 1881.

#### SCENE 14—THE FIRST SCHOOL IN SIOUX RAPIDS

Hand in hand with the need for religion goes the need for education. Now we will peek into a session of the first school. We see Mrs. Newcombe taking up the lessons for the day.

#### SCENE 15—THE STRUBLE HOUSE

Transportation to and from Sioux Rapids was avail-



able as it was on the stage route from Sioux City to Fort Dodge.

#### SCENE 16—WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

April 16, 1861, the peace of the town is suddenly shattered as the fateful headlines read: "Fort Sumter is fired upon". . . President Lincoln has asked for 75,000 volunteers and here are the boys in Blue of Buena Vista County as they appear on the streets of the town to recruit men for their forces.

#### SCENE 17—LINCOLN THE EMANCIPATOR

It is 1865 . . . Atlanta is captured and Lee has surrendered to General Grant almost a year ago. We pay tribute to a shining soul who has weathered this turmoil and this bloodshed, bearing on his shoulders the burdens of a war-torn Nation as its Chief . . . grave in his heartfelt mourning for those dead and wounded and suffering ones left behind, regardless of their allegiance, regardless of their color or their creed.

#### SCENE 18—THE IRON HORSE

The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad was built as far as Sioux Rapids. What an exciting day for the people of Sioux Rapids when the first train, "The Iron Horse", rolled into town.

#### SCENE 19—HALL OF FAME

We honor our men who made sacrifices to give us our heritage in Sioux Rapids.

#### SCENE 20—WORLD WAR I

April 16, 1917, the United States declares war! Sioux Rapids men again answered the call. . . We pause here to pay tribute to those buddies who never returned and who, like the others gave their all, marched off to the tunes of "Over There" and "Tipperary" in the courageous effort to win the global conflict "to end all wars."

#### SCENE 21—THE ROARING TWENTIES

It is the aftermath of a national emergency . . . Prosperity abounds and real estate values reach new heights . . . Young men in "Plus-fours" go canoeing with their dates to the strumming discords and muted plunk of the ukeleles . . . The latest fad is flag-pole sitting while women brazenly "bob" their hair and appear in beaded, knee-length skirts and clothe hats. The slickers and flappers have mastered the "Black Bottom" and now they're off to learn how to do the "Charleston."

#### SCENE 22—WORLD WAR II

We are getting close to the present now . . . It is

the afternoon of Sunday, December 7, 1941 . . . Suddenly the peace of this Sabbath day is disrupted by the alarming news of the attack on Pearl Harbor . . . Once again the rumbling sounds of War reach the ears of Buena Vista Countians.

#### SCENE 23—BUENA VISTA COUNTY SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Once again the men and women of Buena Vista County joined together in the fight to defend our country.

#### SCENE 24—LEST WE FORGET

We pause here to commemorate both those who made this supreme sacrifice and those living who fought in the Cause of World Peace. . . To all of those boys of Buena Vista County we pay this solemn, heartfelt Tribute.

#### SCENE 25—THIS ATOMIC AGE

With the arrival of the 1940's there came Man's knowledge of splitting the atom . . . and with it came the ingenuity and the means to either harness its power for the good or the destruction of the world . . . Since the time when our second World War was coming to a close and during our latest struggle in Korea, when once again our men of Buena Vista County answered the call, the threat of a new engine of War has dangled over our heads like the sword of Damocles . . . shall our knowledge of the splitting of the atom be used to insure us a better future or shall it signify the Beginning of the End? To bring close to you its tremendous import, we simulate the explosion of an Atomic Bomb.

#### SCENE 26—FINALE—A SALUTE TO SIOUX RAPIDS SECOND CENTURY

To the great story of Iowa, Sioux Rapids has contributed to one of the most colorful chapters . . . To the great American Ideals for which Iowa stands, she has given of her blood . . . As we review the panorama of our history, however, it is not to boast; rather we are humbled that the past has bequeathed to us so rich a heritage, and it is in that spirit that we face forward to meet the challenge of a changing world, striving toward the great principle of Freedom, Peace, and Progress for all the world.

#### SCENE 27—AMERICA ALWAYS

The entire cast joins in singing the Star Spangled Banner.

#### SCENE 28—FIREWORKS DISPLAY

A scintillating display of pyrotechnics.

### SIOUX RAPIDS CENTENNIAL

#### CAST

**Narrators**—Keith Palmer, Father Cletus Keleher, Pauline Bales, Lois Grupe, Rev. Vern Willey.

**Organist**—Walter A. Simonsen

Wurlitzer organ used in the Pageant donated with the compliments of Midwest Music Co., Spencer, Iowa.

**Choir Director**—Elmer O. Moe

**Choir**—Russell Haaland, Thorval Haaland, Mrs. Elmer Moe, Mrs. Dave Endersby, Mrs. Robert Stone, Mrs. Howard Beck, Sharon Pritchard, Loree Knickerbocker, Al Simon, Jay Simonsen, Allen Sorenson, Mrs. Allen Sorenson, John Pritchard, Mrs. Marvin May, Mrs. R. K. Coffman, Judee Wilson, H. Ryan, Elmer Osmondson, Betty Blackert, R. K. Coffman, Mrs. Al Lichter, Richard Noble, James L. Fairchild, Kenneth

Bertness, Loyd Turnwall, Shirley Noble, Carolyn Anderson, Walter Grey, Joan Simonson, Ruth George, Audrey George, Mrs. Clarence Middendorff, Mrs. Albert Lewison, Ardrea Lewison, Agnes Seebeck, Wade Smith, Kenneth Cate.

**Color Guards**—Sponsored by the City of Marathon—E. C. Welch, Ralph D. Hartley, Herb Hotchkiss, Richard G. Mowry. Sioux Rapids—Marreld Millard, Dave Endersby, Keith Brugman, Don Stanzel. Reinbrandt—Paul Haroldson, Dan Siekman, Keith Mulvihill, Marvin Gustafson.

**Horsemen**—Ward Goetschall, Jim Lowe, Rusty Buck, Russell Buck, Alex Cuthbert, Wayne Klott, Martin Brown, Mac McClary.

**Queen Candidates**—Margaret McCrary, Sharon Brummer, Kay Kas, Betty Matthews, Marjorie VanVickle, Carol Eastman, Betty Meyer, Lorna Stern, Margaret





Anderson, Beverly Bergquist, Shirley Bjorklund, Marlene Brechwald, Betty Dahl, Kay Deegan, Audrey Hansen, Nancy Hodge, Joyce Redenbaugh, Norene Ripke, Doris Johnson, Ruth Lawrey, Ruby Lawrey, Dixie Faye Laws, Lois McDonald, DeAnne Lawrey, Nancy Miller, Barbara Mitchell, Patricia Murray, Marilyn Olson, Betty Overmohle, Phyllis Pearson, Eloise Peterson, Ana Quinn, Carol Radke, Ryta Sharp, Pat Uren.

Queen's Driver—Billy Peterson

Trumpeters—Lorna Endersby, Betty Anderson, Deloris Falk, Joan Simonson, Corlyss Sundblad.

Cadets—Sandra Warne, Donna Turnwall, Carolyn Anderson, Norma Newgard, Kay Kas, Barbara Felton, Sandra Knudtson, Sandra Brown.

Sailorettes—Shirley Wischmeyer, Ardyce Benson, Karen Fortune, Janet Glover, Judy Benson, Avis Phillips, Karen Grote, Virginia Spiess, Byorg Selfors, Betty Thompson, Carole Simon, Sharon Butler, Susan Bales.

States—

Boy Scouts—Thomas Phillips, Jack Black, Dennis Raveling, Keith Raveling, Mick Rustad, Phillip Lewison, Michal Frap, Art Barglof, Jim Meyers, Larry Mills, Larry McDanial, N. E. Larson, Arnold Olson.

4-H Girls—Coy Carlon, Cheryl Klott, Jeannette Krohn, Mary Herrig, Janice Edwardson, Margaret Herrig, Shirley Weilmerling, Loretta Hadenfeldt, Gail Wright, Barb Williams, Karen Kas, Helane Ferneau, Ruby Krohn, Marilyn Beck, Patsey Walstein, Sharon Halverson, Rosemary Jones, Sharon Hooper.

Cub Scouts—

Brownie Scouts—

#### SCENE 1—OLD TIMER'S INTRODUCTION

Old Timer—

Boy—

Girl—

#### SCENE 2—TRANSPORTATION

Motorcycle—Francis Phillips

New Auto—Harold Reese

Old Auto—Ralph Young

Buggy—Lloyd Dumkrieger

Stage Coach—Carl Madison

Covered Wagon—Don McCain

Pony Expressman—Jim Lowe

Indian Drag—Charlotte Morris, Ruth Huntress

#### SCENE 3—REDMAN'S LAND

Indian Chiefs—Jack Cleveland, Cliff Mathews

#### SCENE 4—SIOUX INDIAN VILLAGES

Indian Braves—Leonard Anderson, Jim Mills, Jay Mills, John Rusk, Doyle Fonley, Dayle Fonley, Gaial Subert, Ron Subert, Dale Sundberg, Ronnie Sundberg, Dean Peterson.

Indian Squaws—Rosa Sundberg, Gwen Mills, Gayla Sorenson, Ruth Wischmeyer, Charlotte Morris, Verna Cleveland, Jeanette Gordon, Beryl Anderson.

Indian Boys—Wally Morris, Barry Anderson, Mike Cleveland, Tom Cleveland, John Cleveland.

Indian Girls—Becky Sorenson, Mary Mills, Cheryl Anderson, Jane Doyle, Linda Rusk, Dawn Hughes, Helen Brill.

#### SCENE 5—FATHERS OF THE BLACK ROBE

Priest—Dale Wischmeyer

Indians from previous scenes.

#### SCENE 6—TRAIL OF TEARS

Indians from previous scenes.

#### SCENE 7—FIRST WHITE SETTLERS

Lane—Martin Brown

Ray—Russell Buck

#### SCENE 8—HOME IN THE WILDERNESS

Cast from pioneer scenes.

Pioneers from previous scenes.

#### SCENE 9—SIOUX RAIDS

Indians from previous scenes.

Pioneers from previous scenes.

#### SCENE 10—RETURN TO FORT DODGE

Cast from previous scenes.

#### SCENE 11—WAGONS WESTWARD

Pioneer Men—Louis Rassler, Delmer Kingery, Emil Fredericks, George Benna, Delford Benson, Kenny Waldstein, Jack Stowell.

Pioneer Women—Mrs. Louis Rassler, Mrs. Delmer Kingery, Mrs. Emil Fredericks, Mrs. George Benna, Mrs. Delford Benson, Mrs. Kenneth Waldstein, Mrs. Jack Stowell.

Pioneer Horsemen—Rusty Buck, Alex Cuthbert, Martin Brown, Russell Buck, Ward Gotchall, Jim Lowe, Wayne Klott, Mac McClary.

Pioneer Boys—Steven Mc Laughlin, Donnie Mc Laughlin  
Pioneer Girls—Carolyn Howard, Becky Janes, Diane Hoyt, Susan Kingery.

Square Dance Caller—

#### SCENE 12—CIRCUIT RIDER

Minister—Wayne Klatt

Cast from previous scenes.

#### SCENE 13—EARLY CHURCH

Pioneers from previous scenes.

#### SCENE 14—FIRST SCHOOL

Teacher—Mrs. Harold Miller

School Girls—Linda Carol Miller, Mary Ellen Miller, Helen Adams, Ilamae Stumpe, Emmy Lou Spiess, Carolyn Weber, Carolyn Anderson, Teresa Anderson.  
School Boys—Neill Ball, Gary Morris, Dennis Van Vickie, Charles Higgins, Roger Stumpe, Dean Stumpe, Lowell Weber, Roger Higgins.

#### SCENE 15—THE STRAUBLE HOUSE

Old Fashioned Men—Mr. John Prather, Mrs. Clarence Brokaw, Mrs. Purty Tigges, Mr. Larry Elkhart, Mr. Emmet Mohror, Mr. Wayne Baker, Mr. Jack Dryzyski, Mr. Edward Walter, Mr. Floyd Dukrieger.

Old Fashioned Women—Mrs. John Prather, Mrs. Clarence Brokaw, Mrs. Purty Tigges, Mrs. Larry Elkhart, Mrs. Edward Walter.

Children from previous scenes

Stage Driver—Carl Madison

Buggy Drivers—Lloyd Dumkrieger, Roger Huntress, Howard Fagen, Bud Dennis.

#### SCENE 16—PRESERVE THE UNION

Officer—Arnold Brehmer

Soldiers—Baxter Ankerstjerne, Bob Hoover, Jim Reed, Keith Mohror, Chris Felton, Carl Erickson, Byron Reed, Jim Brown, Virgil Meyer, Ray Wetherall.

#### SCENE 17—LINCOLN THE EMANCIPATOR

Cast from previous scenes.

Buggy Driver—Lloyd Dumkrieger

Lincoln—Junior Halverson

Cast from previous scenes.

#### SCENE 18—IRON HORSE

Cast from previous scenes.

Buggy Drivers—Lloyd Dumkrieger, Roger Huntress, Howard Fagen, Bud Dennis.

Bride—

Groom—





### SCENE 19—GAY 90's

**Men**—I. E. Mosbo, Lloyd Hill, Glen Graeber, Kenneth Ingram, Roslyn McVinua, Dale Wolfe, Clifford Green, Bill Smith, Magnus Olson, Art Waldstein, Clarence McKibben.

**Women**—Florence Mosbo, Mrs. Lloyd Hill, Mrs. Glen Graeber, Mrs. Kenneth Ingram, Mrs. Dale Wolfe, Mrs. Clifford Green, Mrs. Bill Smith, Mrs. Magnus Olson, Mrs. Alice Collier.

**Boys**—Richard Mosbo, Rickie Wolfe.

**Girls**—Connie Smith, Sandra Smith, Linda McKibben, Bonnie Rae Davis.

**Ball Players**—Kenny Green, Pat Mc Grew, Mike McGrew, Russell Nading.

**Firemen**—Lonnie Arthur, Paul Mosbo.

**Can-Can Girls**—Barb Felton, Lorna Endersby, Carol Simon, Sandy Warne, Judy Benson, Suzie Bales.

**Bathing Beauties**—Mrs. Gil Bentley, Mrs. Clarence McKibben, Mrs. Art Waldstein, Mrs. Lonnie Arthur, Mrs. Ray Davis, Mrs. Keith Mulvihill.

**Sheriff**—Ray Davis

**Camera Man**—Bill McClintock

**Bicycle Couple**—Edward Mosbo, Esther Mosbo.

**Auto Couple**—Ralph Young, Mrs. Ralph Young.

**German Band**—Sandra Warne, Lorna Endersby, Troy Simonsen, Walter Grey, Ted Witter, Lowell Moe, Carol Simm, Susan Bales, Judy Benson, Jerry Johnson, Corlys Sundblad.

### SCENE 20—WORLD WAR I

**Widow**—Mrs. E. C. Welch

**Bugler**—Loel Moe

**Rifle Team**—Elden Woodford, Joe McLaughlin, Ray Anderson, Charles Roder, Gene McLaughlin, Norris S. Olney, Jr., Charles Christenson, Bill Kerns, Gerry Watts.

### SCENE 21—ROARING 20's

**Chauffer**—Ralph Young

**Millionaire**—

**Flappers**—Sandra Warne, Sharon Butler, Judy Benson,

Lorna Endersby, Suzie Bales, Sharon Pritchard, Iris Wardlow.

### SCENE 20—WORLD WAR II

**Family**—Father, Elden Woodford; Mother, Helen Woodford; Son, Joe McLaughlin; Daughter, Mary McLaughlin.

### SCENE 24—SERVICE MEN & WOMEN OF BUENA VISTA COUNTY

Maxine Rowland, Joe McLaughlin, Enos Huffman, Lindley Hoyt, Merreld Huffman, Helen Woodford, Don Brock, Herbert Hotchkiss, Ben Behrens, Mary Casley, Keith Brugman, Vera Huffman, Olive Thompson, Wes Weisbrod, Velma Adams, Dave Endersby, Paul Haroldson, Crystal Johnson, Gene Napier, Irene Agnew, Elden Woodford, Allen Colby, Mary McLaughlin, Ray Anderson, Charles Roder, Gene McLaughlin, Charles Christenson, Virginia Holleson, Donald Stanzel, Lois Endersby, Gerry Watts, Kathryn Osmundson, Bill Kerns, Effie Reng, Irving V. Carlson, Minnie Rowe, Norris S. Olney, Jr., Stella Mary, C. E. Welch, Ralph Hartley, James L. Treinen, Rachel Lehigh, Marvin Gustafson, Richard G. Mowry, Junior Halverson, Lloyd Plagmann, Dean Brock.

### SCENE 24—LEST WE FORGET

**Marines**—Dean Brock, Lindley Hoyt, Irving V. Carlson.

### SCENE 25—THIS ATOMIC AGE

**Service people** from previous scenes.

### SCENE 26—FINALE

**Entire Cast**

### SCENE 27—NATIONAL ANTHEM

### SCENE 28—FIREWORKS

(Due to the necessity of going to press before the cast was complete some names are missing. They will be announced at the program.)

## SIoux RAPIDS CENTENNIAL CORPORATION

1855 — 1955

**Officers**—Charles G. Gustafson, President; L. D. Williams, 1st Vice-Pres.; Al Gran, 2nd Vice-Pres.; Ted Witter, 3rd Vice-Pres.; Lowell Henry, 4th Vice-Pres.; Arthur J. Scott, Treasurer; Cordelia Johnson, Secretary; Sam Grogg, Business Manager; John A. Malone, Legal Adviser.

**Board of Directors**—Charles G. Gustafson, Mayor L. D. Williams, Al Gran, Ted Witter, Lowell Henry, Arthur J. Scott, Cordelia Johnson, Jay Bales, Dr. Dave E. Endersby, Elmer Hanson, Jerry Lehr, Kenneth Kas.

### STEERING COMMITTEE

#### FINANCE DIVISION

Arthur J. Scott, Chairman, Jerry Lehr, Co-Chairman  
**Historical—Program Committee**—Betty Matthews, Chairman; Mrs. Guy Mills, Asst. Chairman.

**Novelties Committee**—Richard Burr, Chairman; Al Arnett, Asst. Chairman.

**Kangaroo Court Committee**—Rod Kleaveland, Chairman.  
**Mustache and Beard Committee**—Wayne Hanson, Chairman, Homer George, Chic Evans, Emmert Norgaard, Darrell Matthews, Elmer Parks, Junior Halverson.

**Decorations Committee**—Harry Blackert, Chairman, Homer George, Asst. Chairman.

**Concessions Committee**—Richard Alverson.

**Centennial Plate Committee**—Lois Endersby, Chairman  
**Wooden Nickel Fund**—Jerry Lehr, Chairman, Merritt Holder, Asst. Chairman.

### SPECTACLE DIVISION

Jay Bales, Chairman, Harry Warne, Co-Chairman  
**Cast Committee**—Mrs. S. O. Knudtson, Chairman.  
**Scenario Committee**—Mrs. Guy Mills, Chairman, Franklin Halverson, Asst. Chairman.  
**Costume and Make-up Committee**—Betty Nylund, Chairman.

**Properties Committee**—Lloyd Hadenfelt, Chairman, Mrs. Roy Brummer, Asst. Chairman.

**Construction Committee**—Al Schilling, Chairman, Glen A. Whiting, Asst. Chairman.

**Spectacle Music Committee**—Elmer O. Moe, Chairman, Les Cornwell, Asst. Chairman.

### SPECTACLE TICKET DIVISION

Lowell D. Henry, Chairman, Vic Schuelke, Co-Chairman  
**Advance Ticket Committee**—Vic Schuelke, Chairman, Dorothy Carlton, Asst. Chairman.

**Queen Contest Committee**—Esther Kas, Chairman; Alice Edwardson, Asst. Chairman, Geraldine Benson.

**Patrons Ticket Division**—Lois Endersby.

**Gate and Usher Committee**—Harry Nelson, Chairman.

### PUBLICITY DIVISION

Ted Witter, Chairman, Bob Coffman, Co-Chairman  
**Press Committee**—Bob Coffman, Chairman, Ted Witter, Asst. Chairman.

**Radio and TV Committee**—Walter Simonsen, Chairman.  
**Distributive Committee**—Francis Phillips.



**Speakers Committee**—Chic Evans, Chairman, L. D. Williams, Asst. Chairman.  
**Promotional Committee**—Waddy Remillard, Chairman, Ed Edwardson, Asst. Chairman.  
**Capsule Committee**—

#### SPECIAL EVENTS DIVISION

Al Gran, Chairman

**Parade Committee**—Gale Halverson, Chairman, Waddy Remillard, Russell Buck, Lawrence Wells.  
**Carnival Committee**—Eddy Torkelson, Chairman.  
**Historical Window Committee**—Emmert Norgaard, Chairman, Jim Treinen.  
**Fireworks Committee**—Mayor L. D. Williams.  
**Military Committee**—Wade Smith, Chairman.  
**Horse Show Committee**—Alex Cuthbert, Howard Fagan, Morton Brown, Sherill Adams, Russell Buck, Ward Gottschall.

#### SPECIAL DAYS COMMITTEE

Elmer Hanson, Chairman

**Sunday, July 31st—Religious Observance Day**—Rev. Vern Willey, Chairman; Rev. J. T. Snyder, Asst. Chairman; Rev. Cletus Keleher, Rev. Lyle Rusart, Rev. L. H. Shaw, Rev. A. H. Liebeltd.  
**Monday, August 1st**—Al Arnett, Chairman.  
**Tuesday, August 2nd**—Lawrence Wells, Chairman.  
**Wednesday, August 3rd**—Harold Chesley, Chairman.

#### HOSPITALITY DIVISION

Mayor L. D. Williams, Chairman

**Homecoming Committee**—Kenneth Cate, Chairman, Bob Stanzel, Art Vady, John Malone, G. E. Marsh, Harley Holmes.  
**Traffic Safety Committee**—A. Kaskey, Chairman, Wade Smith, American Legion.  
**Housing Committee**—Mrs. Arthur Johnson, Chairman.  
**Transportation Committee**—Harvey Carris, Chairman.

#### WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES DIVISION

Cordelia Johnson, Chairman

Mary A. Bennett, Co-chairman

**Belles Costume Committee**—Mrs. A. Lictor, Chairman, Mrs. Fred Scheiber, Mrs. LaDonna Keiser, Mrs. Heiny Simeon, Mrs. Ted Witter, Mrs. Mabel Hout, Mrs. Ludwig Ruhs, Mrs. Al Simon, Mrs. Keith Palmer, Miss Rose Evanson, Mrs. Harvey Rowe, Mrs. Ernest Phipps, Mrs. Art Olson, Mrs. Henry Everhart, Mrs. Raymond Bertness, Mrs. Jack Hollesen, Mrs. J. E. Gilbertson.  
**Centennial Old Fashion Show**—Mrs. Dale Williams, Chairman, Mrs. Lloyd Hadenfeldt, Mrs. G. A. Cady, Mrs. Waldron Remillard, Mrs. Edna Schneck, Mrs.

Vance Adams, Mrs. Walter Simonsen, Mrs. Harvey Dailey, Mrs. Tony Thompson, Mrs. Ward Gottschall, Mrs. Rodney Kleaveland, Mrs. Earl Lehigh, Mrs. Ruth Grey, Mrs. Vernon McDeid, Mrs. Omer Torkelson, Mrs. Howard Beck, Mrs. Donald Doyle, Mrs. Oscar Olson, Mrs. Donna Reng, Mrs. Harold Chapman.

**Ladies Centennial Tea Committee**—Mrs. Richard Burr, Chairman, Mrs. Jenn Waldstein, Mrs. Mary Caskey, Mrs. Pete Asmussen, Mrs. Norman Nylund, Mrs. Don Stanzel, Mrs. M. L. Evans, Mrs. M. W. Polson, Mrs. Roy Brummer, Mrs. Emily Struve, Mrs. Gwenola Wardlow, Mrs. R. J. Mattice, Mrs. Jay Bales, Mrs. Norman Edwardson, Mrs. Oliver Landsness, Mrs. Curis Stone, Mrs. Geo. Hadenfeldt, Mrs. J. E. Gilbertson, Mrs. Bob Struve.

**Style Show Judges Committee**—Mrs. Marion Willard, Chairman, Mrs. Glen Ingram, Mrs. Maude Travis, Mrs. Al Simon.

**Master of Ceremonies**—Mrs. Al Schilling, Chairman, Mrs. Ted Witter, Mrs. Inez Fortune, Mrs. Harry Warne, Mrs. Amy Hoskins.

**Courtesy Committee**—Mrs. Elmer Moe, Chairman, Mrs. Leonard Hadenfeldt, Mrs. C. E. Marsh, Mrs. J. T. Snyder, Mrs. Walter Simonsen, Mrs. A. G. Johnson, Mrs. R. J. Buck, Mrs. Harlan Moody, Mrs. George Decker, Miss Pauline Stangland, Mrs. Ida Mueller, Mrs. Loraine Raveling, Mrs. Floyd Bowers, Mrs. Walter Jacobson, Mrs. Chas. Smith, Mrs. Robert Wede, Mrs. Lowell Henry, Mrs. Harvey Bowe.

**Entertainment for Tea and Style Show**—Mrs. Kenneth Cate, Chairman, Mrs. Earl Bovee, Mrs. Mildred Halverson, Mrs. Robert Napier, Mrs. Raymond Bertness, Mrs. Al Arnett, Mrs. Dean Brock, Mrs. Robert Coffman, Mrs. Allan Sorenson, Mrs. Villa Mann, Mrs. Verneil Olson, Mrs. Norma McKernner, Mrs. Bendix Halverson, Mrs. Wayne Rowe, Mrs. A. J. Scott, Mrs. Denton Johnson, Mrs. Bob Moore.

**Young America Day**—Mrs. Leonard Knudtson, Chairman, Mrs. Floyd Ingram, Mrs. Opal Dubois, Mrs. Dawn Simon, Mrs. Enos Huffman, Mrs. Nellie Sundblad, Mrs. Clarence Middendorf, Mrs. Donald Brock, Mrs. Vic Schuelke, Mrs. Lowell Henry, Mrs. Carolyn (Willard) Anderson, Mrs. Robert Williams, Mrs. Vera Nelson, Mrs. John Sones, Mrs. Ellis Brooks, Mrs. Nathan Skelton, Mrs. Milton Dahl, Mrs. Clifford Smith, Mrs. Bill Roland.

**Ladies of the Swish Committee**—Mrs. Dorothy Moe, Chairman, Mrs. Vincent Pritchard, Mrs. Zora Nielsen, Mrs. Oscar Mays, Mrs. Omar Benson, Mrs. S. A. Bennett, Mrs. Ben Behrens, Mrs. Della Becker, Mrs. Mavis Torkelson, Mrs. Helen Carris, Mrs. Rush Williams, Evalyn Buckner, Mrs. Albert Arne, Mrs. L. Cornwell, Mrs. Mae Kischer, Mrs. Howard Sawyer, Mrs. Floyd Skelton, Mrs. Oscar Reng.

## Sioux Rapids Centennial Celebration

### SCHEDULE OF DAILY EVENTS

**Sunday, July 31st**

#### RELIGIOUS DEDICATION DAY

**Morning:** Centennial Observance in all churches. "100 Years of Religious Progress."  
**12:00 Noon:** Church Pot Luck Picnics at individual churches following morning services  
**8:00 P.M.** "Faith of our Father's Program"  
 "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13-8. Citizens of all faiths will gather at the City Park for a special twilight Religious Program. This program will feature a 100 voice Choir (members from all churches) and the Ministers of all Faiths.

**Monday, August 1st.**

#### YOUTH AND CENTENNIAL BELLES DAY

**9:00 A.M.** Centennial Headquarters open—117 2nd St.  
 ••Recorded music and announcements from reviewing stand  
 •Registration of Old Timers, Pioneers and Guests at Headquarters all day  
 •Reviewing of Merchants Historical Window displays throughout celebration  
**10:00 A.M.** Youth and Kiddies Centennial Pet and Costume Parade  
 Formation will be on Fourth St. starting at the corner of Methodist and Congrega-





tional Churches moving West on Thomas, to Second St., North to Main, West to First St., North to Blake, East and disbanding at Lumber Yard.

- 12:00 Noon: Lunch and enjoy yourself at the Community Church Stand
- 1:00 P.M. Royal United shows and Midway open. This being Youth Day, children may ride any ride for 10 cents until 5:00 P.M.
- 1:30 P.M. Centennial Style Show "Presenting Styles of a Century"—Sioux Theater
- 3:30 P.M. Centennial Tea—Methodist Church
- 4:30 P.M. Free acts from carnival platform, also at 9:00 P.M.
- 7:30 P.M. Band Concert by the Sioux Rapids High School Pep Band prior to Pageant and Linn Grove Chorus under the direction of Bob Anderson.
- 8:15 P.M. 1st performance of "Soorama." This is the feature event of the Centennial, a tremendous theatrical production with over 300 colorfully costumed people—90 minutes of thrills as 28 scenes tell the story of Sioux Rapids, from its very beginning up to its present day. It is a professionally staged Historical Spectacle, produced on a 250 foot stage with special scenic lighting effects, at the City Park. During the opening scene, the Prologue—the Centennial Queen "Miss Soorama" will be crowned.
- 10:15 P.M. Gigantic and spectacular fireworks display will climax "Soorama."
- 10:30 P.M. Visit the Royal United shows until midnite.  
\*Street Square-dance on Main and Second Streets.

## Tuesday, August 2nd PIONEER HOMECOMING DAY

- 9:00 A.M. Centennial Headquarters open—117 2nd Street  
\*Recorded music and announcements from reviewing stand  
\*Registration of Old Timers, Pioneers and Guests at Headquarters all day.  
\*Reviewing of Merchants Historical Window display all day long
- 10:00 A.M. Centennial Parade of Progress  
Parade forms on Blake Street at Thompson Lumber Co. moves East on Blake to eighth Street, South to Main, West to Fourth Street, South to Thomas, West to Second, North to Main, West to First Street, disbanding on Blake Street
- 12:00 Noon: Lunch and enjoy yourself at the Community Church Stand.
- 1:00 P.M. Centennial Horse Show, directed by Northwest Trailriders at City Park.
- 3:00 P.M. Special Program with Guest Speakers at 4th and Main Streets. With the Honorable SENATOR THOMAS E. MARTIN, CONGRESSMAN CHARLES E. HOVEN AND REPRESENTATIVE WENDEL PENDLETON.

- 4:00 P.M. Free acts until 5:00 P.M. at Carnival Platform, also at 9:00 P.M.
- 7:30 P.M. Band concert by the Sioux Rapids High School Pep Band in City Park
- 8:15 P.M. 2nd performance of "Soorama." This is the feature event of the Centennial, a tremendous theatrical production with over 300 colorfully costumed people—90 minutes of thrills as 28 scenes tell the story of Sioux Rapids, from its very beginning up to its present day. It is a professionally staged Historical Spectacle, produced on a 250 foot stage with special scenic lighting effects, at the City Park. The Centennial Queen and her attendants will be presented in the Prologue.
- 10:15 P.M. Gigantic and spectacular fireworks display will climax "Soorama."
- 10:30 P.M. Visit the Royal United shows until midnite  
\*Street Square-dance on Main and Second Street.

## Wednesday, August 3rd GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY

- 9:00 A.M. Centennial Headquarters open—117 2nd Street  
\*Recorded music and announcements from reviewing stand  
\*Registration of Old Timers, Pioneers and Guests at Headquarters
- 10:00 A.M. Old Fashioned Promenade — Featuring Centennial Belles and Brothers of the Brush.
- 12:00 Noon: Lunch and enjoy yourself at the Community Church Stand
- 1:30 P.M. Final judging of the Centennial Belles Costumes at Reviewing Stand
- 2:30 P.M. Brothers of the Brush Preliminary Contest at Reviewing Stand
- 4:30 P.M. Free acts from carnival platform, also at 9:00 P.M.
- 7:30 P.M. Band Concert by the Sioux Rapids High School Pep Band prior to Pageant. Brothers of the Brush final Beard and shaving Contest. (Three Remington Rand 60 Electric Shavers as gifts for the winners, Courtesy of Remington-Rand)
- 8:15 P.M. 3rd performance of "Soorama." This is the feature event of the Centennial, a tremendous theatrical production with over 300 colorfully costumed people — 90 minutes of thrills as 28 scenes tell the story of Sioux Rapids, from its very beginning up to its present day. It is a professionally staged Historical Spectacle, produced on a 250 foot stage with special scenic lighting effects, at the City Park. The Queen and her attendants will be presented in the Prologue.
- 10:15 P.M. Gigantic and spectacular fireworks display will climax "Soorama"
- 10:30 P.M. Visit the Royal United Show until midnite.  
\*Street Square-dance on Main and Second Street.





was so widely known that many of the Commercial salesmen made it a point to make this their weekend headquarters. In regard to Paul's Cafe, it was heavily patronized by the local people and people from the surrounding country to avail themselves of the really fine meals, which were served at this place. Sundays, the dinners were enjoyed by many.

We also had a small stern wheel steamboat, which was owned and operated by Charley Gifford. It made periodic trips from where it was moored, just above the dam to up above the straight and return. Sundays were the busiest days.

We cannot fail to mention the appearance of the first horseless carriage. An advertising car operated by the Leake Advertising Co., which was advertising California products, fruits, vegetables, etc., also had a railroad flat car, which brought the horseless carriage into town. The advent of this car, brought the largest number of people into Sioux Rapids that had ever been in the community up to this time. All being attracted to see the operation of the horseless carriage on the streets. Mr. W. H. Pratt, our congenial station agent, being the passenger to accompany the mechanic operating this car.

Frank Kidman was the first resident of this community to have his own automobile. It was a one cylinder Cadillac, cranked from the side and passengers in the back seat entered from a door in the rear of the car. A far flung difference from the cars of today.

After the completion of the M. & St. L., our community experienced the first major crime, the robbery of the bank at Greenville. A negro and two white men dynamited the bank on a Friday night and made their escape on an M. & St. L. handcar with considerable loot. They came as far as Sioux Rapids. At the arrival of dawn the entire countryside was informed and alerted as to what had occurred. Poses were formed and search for the robbers immediately began. It was soon discovered that they had abandoned the hand car in Sioux Rapids and had taken off on foot, in what direction nobody knew. Later that Saturday evening it was discovered that they had been seen in the vicinity of Albert City and all available members of the posse had been informed as to their whereabouts. They had holed up in the depot and the railroad yard of the Milwaukee road at Albert City—then the shooting began. One of the robbers was in the depot, the other two were trying to make their escape out of the yards, heading south. Finally the man in the depot emerged and was shot to death. The other two had gotten far enough south to where they entered a corn field and took two horses that a farmer was using. In the meantime the posse had surrounded the corn field and captured the negro and re-

maining white man, who offered no further resistance. They were taken to Storm Lake and lodged in the county jail, where in due time they were tried and convicted and sentenced to be hanged in the penitentiary at Anamosa and I think later their sentences were commuted to life imprisonment.

The first street carnival. A representative of the Baucher Carnival Co. contacted the city council offering to bring his exhibitions, sideshow and concessions to Sioux Rapids on a percentage basis. The council he granted the privilege of naming the party or parties which were to receive the percentage portion of the receipts to which the city would be entitled.

At this time some of the local businessmen had organized a semi-professional baseball team. This group was composed of E. D. Peck, Rush White, Raymond Thomas, Roy Smith and Al Tanck. As the baseball season progressed, this group found themselves about two thousand dollars in arrears and they were very grateful to the Council for giving them this opportunity to partially reimburse themselves. Again, unfortunately it rained which curtailed the attendance. One incident which we must mention in connection with the rainfall. One of the local boys was placed in a hypnotic coma and buried in a 6 foot grave at the corner, what was then the corner of the State Security bank. A pipeline, which conducted an electric light, showing the features of the entombed was placed in the grave, the object being to collect revenue at the price of ten cents a look. When this downpour of rain and the gutters were running full, they really got busy and the man was taken from the grave, still in his coma, was taken to the store window of Robinson and Paul, to fulfill his weekly nap, but all opportunity for revenue was gone.

In connection with the carnival activities, the Sioux Rapids baseball team had two games scheduled with the strong Webster City semi-professional team. These events were scheduled for Friday and Saturday afternoon, but again on Friday the rain held down the attendance. Saturday proved to be somewhat better, although at this time it became very apparent that the two thousand dollar deficit of the baseball organization would lack a whole lot of taking them out of the red. Incidentally, must mention that Webster City won both games, due considerably to the efforts of Bill Essick, the pitcher, who later became very prominent with the New York Yankees and the Los Angeles Angels, really one of the big name athletes ever to appear in Sioux Rapids. Fortunately Herb Utley conceived the brilliant idea of contacting Frank Gotch, a former townsman of his at THumboldt, asking him if he would wrestle an opponent of his choosing at Sioux Rapids Saturday night for the benefit of the Sioux Rapids baseball team. Gotch informed





Utley that he would be very glad to do so and he would wire Larry Mustain in Omaha. Mustain to receive fifty dollars and expenses for his appearance. Gotch also informed Utley that his fee would be very nominal and satisfactory to all concerned. The match was held in the ball park on Saturday evening. Needless to say, Gotch won the match after giving everybody a good show and the financial returns proved to be a magnificent success. When Gotch was approached as to his compensation, he said all he expected was his hotel bill and railroad fare, which amounted to less than ten dollars and he wanted to be known as a good neighbor to Sioux Rapids. A fine gesture on the part of the world's champion catch-as-catch-can wrestler. So after all the baseball association came through this experience where very little of this expense had to be borne by the members of the baseball association.

In 1900, Lot Thomas of Storm Lake was elected to Congress and F. H. Helsell, who for years had been a very prominent lawyer throughout the entire eleventh district, was elected Judge of this district, which was considered quite an honor in our little town. Lucy B. Smith was appointed postmaster and Sid Perkins was appointed as a United States policeman at the Capitol at Washington, D. C.

After attaining a north and south railroad through Sioux Rapids, the people were sadly disillusioned as to the benefits Sioux Rapids would accrue. There was a scourge of railroad building in Clay and Buena Vista Counties and it split up the splendid territory Sioux Rapids had previously held geographically. The establishment of the little towns of Truesdale and Rembrandt, to the south and Cornell to the north on the M. & St. L. and the Milwaukee building from Storm Lake to Spencer, there were established the town of Albert City to the southeast and the town of Webb to the northeast and the Rock Island with an east and west line, north of Sioux Rapids, it can be readily seen that the magnificent territory which Sioux Rapids had been the center of, was sadly dissipated and for many years, Sioux Rapids had a terrific struggle to barely hold its own.

The above data was compiled from memory during the time I was located in Sioux Rapids at the turn of the century.

Mr. Tanck is now living in Glendora, California.

### GEORGE BURR

Mr. Burr was born in Woonsocket, Illinois, March 6, 1848. In 1869 he and his father, John Burr, took a homestead where Linn Grove now stands. The two men kept house alone for the first five years. Mr. Burr owned two farms, one of which he traded to his father for the homestead. Mr. Burr was married to Hannah Louise

Richard on April 11, 1878. They became the parents of three children: Josephine Snyder and Roy Burr of Sioux Rapids, and Clay of Spokane.

During the early days, Mr. Burr's favorite pastime was hunting. He shot many deer and wild turkeys not far from the present site of Linn Grove. One time he took a 200 pound hog to Spencer and got \$4.00 for it. Another time he took a load of potatoes to Alta and received ten cents a bushel for them and brought home a broom and some other small articles in payment for them. Eggs were five and ten cents a dozen at this time.

He was better known as "Grandpa Burr," and he drove a stagecoach from Greenville to Spencer. He hauled the first load of shingles into the community from Fort Dodge, where he also bought groceries and other supplies.

Mr. Burr worked in the Sioux Rapids tile factory for some time.

Once when he was a young man he became homesick to see his sisters so he walked from Sioux Rapids to St. Paul to see them and then walked back.

When he was 80 years old he still filled the position of caretaker of the Lone Tree Cemetery covering over twenty acres and mowed it with just a common lawn mower. He always kept the cemetery in excellent condition. During the thirteen years of work in the cemetery he dug 293 graves. Peter, his dog, was an inseparable companion.

He had some vivid recollections of experiences during his life time, which included four wars.

Grandpa Burr became nearly blind before he was 90 but at the age of 92, the sight in one eye was partially restored as a result of an operation. It was the first operation of this type to be performed on a man of his age. Mr. Burr lived to be over 100 years old.

### EMMA JACOBSON

Emma Jacobson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jacobson, was born in 1872, at Sioux Rapids, Iowa. Her early schooling was in what was known as the Cuthbert school, located in Barnes town ship. Her father was director of this school. After finishing school she became a school teacher. Her first school was where Mrs. Whitehead now lives. It was always known as the Bennett school. While teaching she boarded with Mrs. John Clough. Her school was much like the other one room buildings of that day. Sam Bennett and Mrs. Belle Pewesey were some of her pupils.

Miss Jacobson has many vivid recollections of the early days. She remembers being afraid of the Indians as they were passing through. One time the Indians were selling baskets which they had made. Her mother bought three, one of which Miss Jacobson is the proud owner. The







EMMA AND MADELINE JACOBSON

other two were lost. The Indians had their camp down by the river.

Of the location of different business places Miss Jacobson remembers that Martin Paulson had a hardware store. Part of this building is still in existence, after being moved twice. It is now part of the house in which the Robert Napiers live. The Hollingsworth house was in the Hotel block. Tyre & Watts had the flour mill by the river, Thomas Watts used to live where Eddie Torkelson lives. Echo block was a large building. It had a big hall and two apartments above and two large rooms below. This building burned in 1880 or 1881. It stood where Norgaards store is except it was facing west.

Henry Moore had a livery stable across from where the theatre building now stands. It was still running as late as 1914 or 1915. Here you could engage a driver and buggy to take you places, or you could just engage a rig and horse if you cared to drive.

F. D. White came after the Echo block burned. His store stood on the same corner only it faced the south. James Hoskins built the house where Waldron Remilliard lives. Blake and Tyford had the saw mill and sawed the native walnut trees for lumber. Miss Jacobson is living with her sister, Madeline, on First Street.

#### MRS. CAROLYN WHITEHEAD

Carolyn Tower Whitehead was born in Chi-

cago, Ill., on Feb. 20, 1860. Mrs. Whitehead came to Storm Lake in the spring of 1878. There was water and mud everywhere and she said had there been a train returning to her old home she would have gone back. But she stayed and taught school, until she was married to T. H. Whitehead in the fall of 1881.

In the spring of 1897, they moved to a farm east of Sioux Rapids and lived there until 1906 when they moved into town and made this their home for eleven years. In 1917, they moved to their present home south of Sioux Rapids. Mr. Whitehead passed away in April of 1933. They were the parents of four children: Scott, Spencer, Florence and Rafa.

Mrs. Whitehead has seen many changes take place during her time, from the days of ox carts and buggies to the beautiful cars and planes of today. Mrs. Whitehead is now 95 years old and continues to enjoy good health.

#### PETER B. JOHNSON

Peter B. Johnson was born in Mosjan, Norway in 1860. At the age of seven years, he came to America with his parents. They first came to Stoughton, Wis., where they lived for one year before moving to Sioux Rapids. Mr. Johnson lived for 81 years on the old home place southwest of town.

The Johnson family traveled from Wisconsin to Fort Dodge by train and then came to Sioux Rapids by oxen. They settled on their farm before the railroads came to Sioux Rapids and mail was taken between Storm Lake and Spencer by stage coach.

J. F. Thompson says "that if it had not been for people like the Johnsons the taming of the wilderness in early pioneer days would have been a dread and oftentimes a disaster. He recalls his father telling of making a trip to Storm Lake with a load of hogs from the homestead in Clay county where Royal now is. It involved a 40-mile journey one way over an uncharted prairie.

While returning, a bitter cold blizzard overtook him and to quicken circulation he resolved to walk a ways. In some way the lines became tangled around his feet and he lit on the frozen ground, dislocating his shoulder and breaking his shoulder blades.

He made his way to the Johnson home, and was given all the care primitiev conditions afforded. (The nearest doctor was at Fort Dodge, so that was prohibitive).

Not until his injuries were fully mended did they start him on his homeward trek!

Mr. Johnson passed away at his home at the age of 93 years.

#### JOHN SORENSON

John Sorenson, father of P. B. Johnson came to Sioux Rapids in the early '70's with his family. He became a citizen of this country in 1877. He





bought his first land from the Iowa Falls and Sioux City railroad in 1876. Mr. Sorenson died April 17, 1889, at the age of 68 years. His wife passed away February 22, 1917, at the age of 93.

### FRED H. CRAWFORD

This interesting story comes from Fred Crawford:

"I lived there from March 1, 1886, until November 17, 1892, and from December 24, 1893, until May 1, 1895. Prior to 1886 I lived in Linn Grove (my birthplace August 25, 1875) and visited in Sioux Rapids quite often through the intervening years, as was my custom in the years after leaving there in 1895, but my recollections seem to be concentrated during the period 1886 to 1895.

Following are a few remembrances most vivid in my mind:

The schoolhouse on the hill where the present one now stands, if not mistaken, was then the most conspicuous building in town. It was the first building seen by the visitor arriving from any direction. Only four rooms, two up and two downstairs, quite large with a beautiful panoramic view from each room.

The teachers that taught the various grades during my school years are, of course, well remembered, but shall only mention four, viz.: Mrs. Montross, Mr. S. S. All, Mr. Scott Bradford and Mr. J. E. Durkee. Have a very good reason to remember the latter as it was he who stood me in the corner with my face to the wall for shooting paper wads and was this humiliating to me! Being of a sensitive nature, I imagined everyone was staring at me and even thought there might be a hole in the seat of my pants. Safe to say, this was the end of my paper wad shooting. It was the first and last punishment during my school years.

One Friday afternoon some of the eighth grade boys remained after school to settle a little matter with Professor All. The news got around and all of us boys in the Grammar room waited at the foot of the stairs to see what happened. Finally the big boys came down and they were a sight to behold. All mussed up and covered with what we thought was blood, that really turned out to be red ink. This, however, we did not learn until later and never found out what the fracas was about. Maybe some of the old-timers can fill in the details.

Mr. All was not very popular to say the least, but Mr. Bradford and Mr. Durkee were wonderful gentlemen and splendid professors. Mr. Durkee in later years came to southern California and purchased an orange grove near Anaheim and became a very successful citrus grower. He always attended the Iowa State picnics annually in Los Angeles and it was at these picnics we

used to reminisce Sioux Rapids school days, but never mentioned paper wads.

Wonder how many people there now remember the first long distance telephone line from Storm Lake to Sioux Rapids. The line was strung on fence posts most of the distance and the only access to it was in Parker and Green's Drug store. It was out of service in 1887 when I worked for this firm, but the instrument still hung on the wall. Of course there are many who will remember the old town pump on Gabrielson's corner; water trough, rusty tin cup and all. The first pump was wooden with an endless chain carrying little rubber cups, operated with a crank.

It might be of interest to the later generations to hear of some of the pranks we played in the yesteryear. One Halloween the boys took Hank Moore's personal buggy, (something a little out of the ordinary) tied a rope to the tongue and hauled it up straddle the gable roof of his livery barn. Hank was a mighty good sport, liked everybody and everybody liked him, but when he came down the next morning and saw his pet buggy on top of the barn, he was madder than a hatter. He soon colled off and the boys were right back to the old hangout in his office where he had boxing gloves, dumb bells, Indian clubs, checkers, cards and such for the boy's entertainment and it was here, by the way that I had my first and last experience with the gloves. Someone rapped me on the nose a little too hard and I lost all interest in boxing.

On another Halloween we played a prank on Jim Carter. He was a railroad contractor and had fifteen or twenty big wheel scrapers parked on his back lot on Second between Elm and Hillside and we moved 7 or 8 of them down to Main between First and Second and blocked up the street and the next morning Jim came in the drug store where I was working and announced in no uncertain terms that he knew every one of the boys in the gang and was going to swear out a warrant for their arrest if the scrapers were not moved to his parking lot by noon. You will understand it was no trouble to move them down hill to Main, but to get them back was another story. There was only one thing to do and that was to sit tight and say nothing. We did just that and about noon, Jim had one of his men with a team hauling back the scrapers about three at a trip.

How many remember Mr. Charles N. Baker and his "Grasshopper?" This contraption was a windmill mounted on a frame with four buggy wheels. The windmill turned a shaft with a crank at each end and to these cranks were connected two pike poles that came in contact with the road and the thing would run at moderate speed when the wind blew. He used to steer it with a lever connected to the front axle and I had the extreme pleasure of riding with him several times.



Think it might be in order to mention the Sioux Rapids Press when it was young. Think it was started in about 1885. Mr. Charles C. Colwell was the first editor in my memory and later Mr. B. W. Talcott. Arthur Eastman was the head printer for Mr. Talcott and think he also worked for Mr. Colwell. What remains most clearly in mind is how Art used to encourage the boys in to help him get out the paper on press nights. Art was a very congenial fellow; had been around the neighboring states as a journeyman printer and was a good story teller. He also was a very good band man; could play all the instruments except the clarinet and was our leader as long as he remained in Sioux Rapids. On press nights the boys would line up and take turns pulling the old Washington hand press and Art would do the inking while telling us of his experiences, not forgetting to give us a little praise now and then, but invariably before the edition was half run, most of the boys had slipped out and gone home, just what I would liked to have done but didn't have the nerve and many times found myself on the long end of the press lever and Art still linking on the last sheet. He was sort of a Tom Sawyer psychologist.

Mr. Colwell came out to California and located in Lankersheim and we also used to meet at the Iowa State picnics and hash over old Sioux Rapids days.

Volumes could be written about various individuals who lived there during my time, but anticipating other old-timers, better qualified will cover many of them much better, I'll terminate this with a brief mention of my father, Edwin J. Crawford, whom quite a few people should remember. He worked for the C. & N.W. on the section and in the coal house. He worked for Mr. F. D. White for several years and later drove team for Dr. S. G. Nordstrom when the Doctor made his calls out in the country. The country folks will probably remember him best as the "fiddler," as he used to play for their dances. I have known him to come home at three or four in the morning many times with as little as seventy-five cents for his night's work, which included his team for the trip. Those days money was really scarce and even twenty-five cents, the amount each man was supposed to contribute for the music was hard to come by for some and many paid with promises that never materialized and others would have a little alcohol and that mixed with a little water floated away many an obligation.

### E. E. THOMAS

E. E. Thomas was born in 1878, in a log cabin near the banks of the Little Sioux river about a mile west of Sioux Rapids and has lived in Buena Vista county all his life. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Thomas who were born in Wales. In the spring of 1882, he moved with his

parents to a farm about three miles northeast of town. It was that year that the first trains on the Chicago and Northwestern railway came through Sioux Rapids.

Mr. Thomas got his education in the rural schools. He has seen the time when prairie grass covered most of the farm land of today, and when prairie chickens nested by the thousands here. Wild ducks hatched in the many sloughs and in the spring sandhill crane circled overhead. Caravans of Indians traveled from one reservation to another.

He has seen the Marsh Harvester in operation, the corn planter come into existence, the first horse power threshing machine and the first steam threshing engine in use.

Mr. Thomas has always been interested in the affairs of the community, having served on the school board, and was on the Board of Township Trustees for several years. He also sealed corn in Lee and Barnes township the first two years of the corn sealing program and has been a salesman for the Pioneer Hy-brid Seed Corn Company for the past twenty three years.

Eve is a member of the Masonic lodge and is a Past Master, also a member of the York Rites and the Shrine.

In 1901 he was married to Jennie McDaniel, who passed away in December of 1950. Mr. Thomas, who is now 78 years old is living in town with his daughter, Fern.

Although interested in nearly all the sports, his favorites are boxing, wrestling and foot racing and believe it or not, Mr. Thomas says he and Ransom Mogster kept the ice broke in the river in the early day so the Indians couldn't get across.

### MRS. NORA OBERG

Mrs. Oberg was the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Osmundson who came here in 1885. Hannah and Lena were the other children of the family, Lena being the mother of Mrs. Agnes Seebeck. Mrs. Oberg was married in 1905 and her husband, Dr. Oscar Oberg, passed away in 1940. Mrs. Oberg continued to live in the same house.

Mr. Osmundson operated a store for a short time in the west end of Sioux Rapids. But he was really a mason and contractor. His wife helped out in the store when he built the house that Rush Williams lived in. All of the three girls were married from the family home.

### GEORGE STREETER

George Streeter was born in 1866. In 1872 he came with his parents from Boone county, twelve miles east of Rockford, Ill. Belvidere was the county seat.

This trip was made in a covered wagon, and the family was three weeks and two days in making it. They left on the 31st day of August and





arrived at Storm Lake the 22nd of September. Many exciting things happened on the trip. Mr. Streeter cannot remember of the family owning any oxen, so the trip was made with horses. He does remember a yoke of oxen running away from his father while he was driving them though.

The Streeter family did not travel on Sundays, but one man and his wife were in such a hurry to get here, that he went ahead on Sunday. This family camped with some other people and horse thieves stole their horses.

The Streeters came through about where No. 5 is now located. They crossed the ferry at Dubuque. An uncle helped drive the stock through. A guard was set up each night and the wagons were arranged in a circle with the stock placed inside, for protection against horse thieves.

Mr. Streeter says, "the mosquitoes were terrible in those days and he remembers seeing lots of deer and wild game, sandhill cranes were seen by the thousands. He came too late to see the elk, but there were many elk horns on the prairie. When the grasshoppers came, people thought it was an eclipse of the sun as it was so dark. They cleaned up everything, women did not dare to hang out clothes on the line for fear the grasshoppers would eat them. Mr. Streeter remembers going to Spencer one time and as feed was so scarce they stopped several times in order to let the horses feed on the grass along the way. When the new crop of grasshoppers hatched out they did not do so much damage.

Mr. Streeter lives in Sioux Rapids and is enjoying good health. He is able to come down town every day and one his proudest possessions is his driver's license which he continues to use.

### HENRY RHODES

In 1879 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rhodes, Sr., sold everything they had in Wolcotville, Ind., (which consisted of an 80-acre farm and stock) except a covered wagon and team of horses. With the children, George, Sam, Charlie, Henry and Julia and her husband Judd, moved to Iowa in a covered wagon. Another daughter, Amanda, who was also married, did not come on this trip.

They had no particular destination in mind and finally landed in Sioux Rapids some four weeks later. Judd knew a Dr. Miller in Sioux Rapids who was from LeGrange, Ind. On the way out they stopped at the houses to buy feed for the horses, (some traveling through would go into the corn fields and help themselves) but one time they saw no house so the boys went into the field and got a few ears of corn for the horses.

Every other section of land was given to the railroad at that time, for building the road here. In the winter it got very cold, and was hard for the trains to get in on account of the snow. One time Henry and Charlie took their little sled and went to Spencer to get some flour. A train had

come in and they let each have a small sack, so there would be enough to go around. The snow wasn't crusted over in some places to hold a horse up but would hold the boys.

In the winter they burned twisted hay, cow chips and nice, big ears of corn. Corn was much cheaper than coal as it had to be shipped in.

Julia and her husband stayed about a year and returned to LaGrange, Ind., and then in 1882, George and his folks went back to Indiana, but Henry, Sam and Charlie lived in a covered wagon along the Little Sioux that winter and cut wood. The Sioux Indians came from the reservation to cut wood too. The Indians were paid more a cord than the whites, as they laid a closer cord and more wood to the cord. The whites laid their cords as loosely as possible and the Indians weren't up to those tricks as yet.

When the boys were cutting wood the Indian women would ransack all the wagons and tents in camp. Nothing was safe.

They would divide the timber into strips, and you were to cut on the strip they put you on. The "spotter" came through and examined your cord of wood, if O.K. he'd take his paint brush and red paint and splatter the ends of the wood, then it was yours to be paid for. One strip of land would be for the whites and the next for the Indians. They would steal wood from the whites if they could before it was "spotted." The boys were lucky most of the time and had very little stolen from them. One day a tree was on the line and part of it was theirs and the other part belonged to the Indians. Sam who just a boy then, thought the Indian was taking too much of the tree so he began to fuss about it. The Indian buck was about six feet tall, and he never said a word except "Ugh" and started right after Sam. He had moccasins on and could run up a tree like a cat. He had his axe thrown over his shoulder. It scared Henry and Charlie and of course Sam began running with the Indian right after him. Charlie noticed that the Indian was laughing. Sam ran down a little ravine, caught his foot in a grape vine and fell down. When the Indian saw him fall he turned around and came back laughing. But Sam did not argue with the Indians any more.

Later Henry and Charlie drove a team and wagon (a freight wagon) between Storm Lake and Spencer hauling freight back and forth between the two towns. There was a house between the two towns that the boys called the "Half-way House." They ate meals there and some times stayed all night and cared for their teams. Once Sam went with them but the first meal he would scarcely eat anything. After they got outside they asked him why he did not eat more. He thought the more he ate the more it cost, so he didn't want to make it hard for them. They told him to eat as it cost the same either





way, all you could eat for a quarter. After that he ate a good meal.

A number of bankers in Iowa, to encourage cattle raising, would give you some cows, what you thought you could feed, and you were to keep every one of them for three years, then you could have the original cows. You were to get half of the money from the increase, which all must be sold. Henry got ten of these cows and did very well with them.

The boys went back to Indiana later. Henry went to Belle Plaine, Iowa, and was married there. But he could not forget the beautiful Little Sioux valley so in 1892 he brought his family here and settled in Clay County, where he lived all his life with the exception of a few years. He passed away in 1954 at the age of 94 years. He always remembered the early days and the beautiful prairies covered with flowers.

Mr. Rhodes was the father of Delbert Rhodes, Mrs. Edward Bowers, Mrs. James Puckett, Mrs. Ora Boardman and Mrs. Guy Mills.

### MRS. ELLA SITZ

There was another settlement on the north side of the river near what is now Peterson. It was here that Ella Kirchner was born in a log house on September 1, 1858, to Mr. and Mrs. Gus Kirchner, pioneer settlers.

She has the distinction of being the first white child born in Clay County. She has many vivid recollections of her early childhood, among them are those of the Indian dangers of that time. She was a small child when the band which later massacred the settlers at Arnolds Park made a preliminary tour through the southern part of the county. A small stockade had been built on her father's farm. The houses of some of the other settlers were grouped nearby. A few soldiers were stationed here and some of her fondest memories are of when they would give her and her brother rides on their horses when they would bring them to the river to drink. Many times the settlers would gather at the fort and stay all night, because there were portholes to look out of.

After the massacre sometimes friendly Indians passed through and gathered roots and herbs for their medicines. They even wove a beautiful basket for her wedding present.

As a child she attended the early country schools, later she became one of the pioneer teachers and taught for three terms in the little schools that were far different than the modern ones we have today.

At the age of twenty-one she married her childhood sweetheart and began their married life near by. Her father operated a saw mill and a grist mill. Mr. Sitz took over the management of this and soon converted it into a flour mill. Mrs. Sitz helped at the mill besides doing her house work.



MRS. ED SITZ  
First Child Born in Clay County

It was in 1929 on their 50th wedding anniversary that Mr. Sitz passed away. As she told of this, her thoughts drifted back to the times she and her husband drove to Spencer, when there was but a few houses here. And she also mentioned that her wedding dress had been destroyed in a fire.

Mr. and Mrs. Sitz became the parents of four children. She has several grandchildren, great grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Sitz now makes her home at the Delaney Nursing Home, where the nurses hover over her lovingly for since her stay there she has endeared herself to all.

Before her eyesight failed her Mrs. Sitz pieced a quilt for each of her children, grandchildren and her great-grandchildren. She is still interested in what is going on and listens to her radio and loves to visit. She has a special board on which she lays her paper to write. It has a wire fixed on it so that she is able to stay on the line. Her beautiful handwriting is easy to read even though she is unable to see.

She is able to be up each day and sit in her rocking chair, but does not try to walk much since she broke her hip some years ago. She is able to tell time by feeling where the hands are on her own special clock that has the glass removed. Her hobbies were her flowers and she loved to cook and sew.





Her children and grand-children come to visit her often and these are special, happy days when they do. We too, are proud to have had the privilege to spend an afternoon with her.

### **MRS. ROBERT WATSON**

Mrs. Watson came to Clay County from Wisconsin in 1870. She was too small to remember the trip across the prairie from Fort Dodge to their homestead. Her father had come on ahead in 1869 and had built a small house.

The family often drove to church in a wagon, with feed for the team, and lunch for them all. Everyone visited through the noon hour, then in the afternoon came Sunday School and the big and little children stood up in front of the church and sang with all their might.

Indians drove through once in a while and begged everything they could see, oftentimes things that were needed by the family. Her father, who was David Williams, was gone a great deal of the time hauling supplies for different places. When he was gone, her mother darkened the windows at night, and the children were not allowed to speak above a whisper, even the dog seemed to know he was to keep quiet for fear there would be Indians lurking near.

One afternoon a band of Indians camped on a hill near her home, and two of them came to the house and said, "Ugh, me good Indian," they took all the provisions the two could carry. They sang and chanted all night.

Another time some Indians asked for some chickens and helped catch them by throwing sticks at them. They injured a lot of them that had to be killed after the Indians left. This was quite a loss as they did not have many in the first place.

In the years before the grasshoppers they had good gardens and raised a lot of beans. Prairie chickens were plentiful, the breasts were salted and dried. Fish were easily caught in the creek, these were salted down in jars and later freshened in milk. Grapes, plums, gooseberries and hazel nuts were gathered in the fall. Any one having dried sweet corn or peas shared with others.

Mrs. Watson was eleven years old before she attended school as there were not enough children in the district to demand a school. The first year they only had three months of school. Miss Ann Jones was her first teacher, she received \$18.00 a month for teaching.

In 1889 things looked better, more people were moving in. Groves were growing nicely. The railroad had come through Sioux Rapids and some time later through Spencer and there was a boom as if by magic.

Mr. and Mrs. Watson were married in 1887. They became the parents of three children, Howard, Eleanor and Ruth. Mrs. Watson makes her

home with her daughter Ruth (Mrs. Lester Walker).

### **MRS. TONETTE HALVERSON**

Mrs. Halverson was born at Vansø Lister near Farsund on the southern shore of Norway and came to the United States at the age of twenty-nine. She came to Sioux Rapids in the spring of 1882 with her mother and brothers following their father's death. In 1885 she was married to Albert Halverson and in 1891 she and her husband moved to the farm she now lives on. Her husband passed away in 1944 but Mrs. Halverson still continued to live on the farm with her two daughters, Effie and Clara, and her son, Franklin.

Mrs. Halverson is a charter member of W.M.F. of the First Lutheran Church and even though she is 102 years old, she is still able to attend church, weather permitting.

In her younger days Mrs. Halverson did beautiful handwork and different kinds of sewing. She enjoyed reading very much, but can no longer do too much of it. She enjoys her home and family very much.

Mrs. Halverson was born on Sunday and has observed six birthdays on Easter Sunday.

The W.M.F. of the First Lutheran church held open house for her on her 100th birthday anniversary.

### **OLIVER OLSON**

Mr. Olson was born in Leland, Illinois, and lived there until 1891 when he moved to Sioux Rapids. In 1895 Mr. Olson started to work for I. B. Christianson. It was there he got his start in the clothing business.

In 1908 he was married to Anna Gustafson from Stockholm, Sweden. In 1915 Mr. Olson and Roy Burr joined their partnership in Olson and Burr Clothing Store which they continued until Mr. Olson's death in May of 1952. Mr. Olson was active in all the affairs of the town and supported it in every way that he could.

### **GUY L. HORNER**

Mr. Horner was a photographer in Sioux Rapids for more than 40 years. At the age of 14, in February of 1891, he came with his parents to Iowa. The family home was at Manson where he finished the last two years of his schooling. He then attended and graduated from the Effingham School of Photography. He worked in the next few years in studios in Lake City and Madison, S. D. In 1905 he was married to Grace Moore and in the fall of 1910 he purchased the Jacoby Studio in Sioux Rapids. Here he made his home for 41 years. Mr. and Mrs. Horner were the parents of five children.

Mr. Horner was a member of Enterprise Lodge A.F. & A.M., serving as secretary for many years, and also of Buena Vista Chapter of





Eastern Star of which he was past patron. He took an active interest in all worthwhile affairs of the community. He served on the town council for many years and was town clerk for 25 years.

### **BELLE SICKLES**

Mrs. Sickles came here in 1909. She first made her home at Linn Grove and then moved to Sioux Rapids. She came with her mother as her father had passed away before they moved here. One of her pleasant memories was of the wonderful Fourth of July celebrations held in Sioux Rapids. These were attended by large crowds that came from every nearby town.

Mrs. Sickles was married in 1905 and her husband passed away in 1940. She recalls when the river bridge went out in high water, and also the big prairie fire north of town. Men fought it with wet sacks as they were afraid it would cross the river and do considerable damage to the town. Mrs. Sickles still lives in town and works at the Travis Variety Store.

### **DR. I. J. KLEAVELAND, D.V.M.**

Many changes have taken place in this community since I arrived thirty-four years ago. I will never forget the Sunday in April when I got on the train at Ames to come to Sioux Rapids to buy this practice from Dr. McGreevy. Having always lived in a flat country, the Little Sioux Valley impressed me very much.

After graduating I arrived here June 21, 1921, and rented the house that Earl Lehigh just moved to the hills north of town. The only graveled roads were No. 71 and No. 10 with a few short stretches from these "highways" that the farmers had graveled themselves. I drove a Model T Ford which had a high clearance for mud and snow. I remember taking three hours to drive to the Sutton farm about 5 miles on the north river road on a spring day. Every farmer had from six to ten horses and they all milked quite a few cows. The beginning of the shift from horses to tractors started in 1927 and in 10 years my practice was changing with it. New discoveries in medicine were broadening the field in cattle, hogs and poultry. Now it is unusual to be called to treat a horse. The only merchants on main street now that were here when I came are Roy Burr and John Brummer.

I married Hildreth Covington from Pleasantville, a college romance. We have four sons. Two of them, Rodney and Jay, are veterinarians and will make their home in Sioux Rapids. Justin is a specialist in internal medicine in Muskegon, Mich. Richard is completing his training at Boston and will become a surgeon next July.

While living in Sioux Rapids I have served on various community boards, council, school boards and have belonged to commercial clubs and lodges. I think this community, town and

country, is more progressive than at any time since we came here in 1921.

### **L. F. PINGEL**

L. F. Pingel started his banking career in 1909 at the Rembrandt bank and is still active president of the First State Bank of Sioux Rapids.

He came to the United States with his parents when he was four years old. They came direct to Sioux Rapids and lived with the Wellmerling family south of Sioux Rapids. When their new home was completed they moved to their place five miles south of Sioux Rapids.

He spent 13 years on the farm and helped his father operate a restaurant, a hotel and a meat market in Rembrandt.

After his high school education was completed he attended college at Storm Lake and then completed a course in bookkeeping and finance of the International Correspondence school at Scranton, New York.

He later worked in the Rembrandt bank, the Laurens bank and then came back to Rembrandt. In 1930 he took over the reorganization of the Linn Grove bank.

Eighteen of his forty-five years of banking career has been spent at the First State Bank at Sioux Rapids.

The First State Bank has installed an International Business Machine. With this the bank will be able to give their customers faster and more efficient service at the teller windows.

The bank offers a complete banking and insurance service and is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The officers of the bank are: Louis F. Pingel, President; Arthur J. Scott, Cashier; A. R. Rehnstrom, Vice President, and W. W. Linebarger, Assistant Vice President.

### **MRS. LENA SEIFKEN**

Mrs. Seifken has been in Buena Vista County seventy years the 9th of March. When she was five years of age she came from Germany with her family. They located at Grundy Center and at the age of 16 she came to Buena Vista county.

The first time she went to Storm Lake with a buggy and horse she came home on the stage. A stop was made at the Zinzer farm to pick up the mail. Fred Moore was driver of the stage. At that time there was a stage route from Spencer to Storm Lake. This was the only way the mail could be brought in at that time.

For recreation Mrs. Seifken says that many lyceums were held, also people attended debates and many surprise parties were held. At dances they brought their own music. They went to the Anton Johnson place (where the Harkness Station is) where they sometimes had dances. Their means of getting there was in an old fashioned sled.

When Judge Thomas lived in Storm Lake he





gave a party and invited many from here. At this party sixteen different bands played.

At this time Abner Bell gave her enough material for a skirt. After making it Mr. Lauman's mother had enough material left for a skirt for a little girl.

Mrs. Seifken did nursing for many years in the Sioux Rapids area and at present is making her home with Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lauman in Sioux Rapids.

### OLE JOHNSON

Ole Johnson who was the oldest man in Iowa was 105 years old at the time of his death.

As a youth he was on a fishing boat off the coast of Norway during a storm in 1850. With his comrades he was marooned on an island for several days without food.

Mr. Johnson was 46 when he came to the United States and was 53 when he migrated to Iowa with his wife and seven daughters.

During his last year Mr. Johnson was spry enough to walk without a cane and was mentally alert, doing much of his own business.

Mr. Johnson had eighty-one descendants. His children were Emma Olson of Cornell, Mrs. Hannah Voss, Mrs. Mary Harrom and Mrs. Bertha Sorenson, Mrs. Sara Cook and Mrs. Wallace Knudtson.

### CHARLES A. ANDERSON

Charles A. Anderson, grandfather of Cyril was one of the early settlers in Sioux Rapids. Mr. Anderson had a harness shop in 1875 located where the Maude Travis Variety Store is located.

J. B. Christenson stayed at the Anderson home when he first came to town.

Mr. Hylestad came in 1883 and built the foundation of the first church. He also built the foundation of the old mill. This was built of stone.

In 1885 the city well was dug. Cyril remembers his grandfather telling that kerosene sold for \$1.25 a gallon. It had to be freighted in with an ox team.

### J. F. THOMPSON

Mr. Thompson was born in a prairie shack in Clay County in 1875, where his family pioneered eight years before moving to Barnes township, where a more advanced settlement had been made. Later he bought the farm now owned by Harvey Rowe. With pride he says he knows every curve and tributary of the Little Sioux from the Kindlespire Bridge to the influx of Brooks Creek.

More of Mr. Thompson's early recollections are listed in parts of this book.

### MRS. MATILDA STEEN

Mrs. Matilda Steen observed her 98th birthday on May 24, 1955. She and Mr. Steen came

from Sweden in 1879 and made their home in Odebolt, Iowa until 1882 when they came to Sioux Rapids. Their first home was where the Stacy home now stands.

First Street at that time had five houses between town and the Lutheran Church. There were the homes of Dr. Pond, the late Nels Suckow's brother, Henry Jacobson, I. B. Christianson's parents and Peter Jacobson. On the opposite side going toward town were four houses—Gabe Christianson, Jim Carter, Mrs. Steins home and the Farmer residence.

A brick factory was located in the south part of town where the Seebeck and Hurless residences are. For many years it was under the management of G. A. Christensen (father of Mrs. Ralph Young).

Two general stores were in operation at that time—the Halverson-Jacobson general store on the west side and the Adolph Stangland store where Clara's Cafe is now. South of this Stangland store was a large rooming and boarding house. It was a large red frame building and built somewhat like the motels of today. The doors of the various rooms opened out on the walk facing west. This was a very popular place for the working men as they were building the railroad. They could get their meals at late hours and also have their lunch boxes packed for the noon meal.

Farmers were coming into town with wagons drawn by oxen, but these soon were replaced by horses and buggies. Not too long after this, the stage coach service was discontinued.

In those early days the people bought the green coffee beans and roasted them in the ovens of their homes. Then, of course, it had to be ground with the old coffee grinder. Fresh vegetables were not sold in the stores until later years. Very little fresh fruit was found in the stores. Very little canning of fruit was done at that time, as everyone bought the dried fruits and these often times were canned so as to save time.

Ready-to-wear clothing for women and children could not be purchased as they had none to sell. The women made the clothing for the family including the men's work shirts. The clothing for men was made at the tailor shops.

For several years there was the "Lundwall and Steen" Drug Store. This was operated by August Lundwall and Conrad and Abner Steen. It is now George's Drug Store.

Mrs. Steen has a wonderful memory and her mind is very clear. Her general health is not too good. Mr. Steen passed away in 1928. She has a daughter Wilmina, at home, another daughter, Mrs. Lars Anderson of Chester, Iowa, a son, C. A. Steen, of San Diego, California, and one son, H. C. Steen passed away in 1942.



## HISTORY OF THE MILO BENNETT FAMILY

Miles and Amelia Bennett moved to Sioux Rapids in 1870 from Canisteo, New York. Coming by train to Fort Dodge, they came across country to Sioux Rapids to the W. S. Lee home. Mr. Bennett had previously purchased a tract of land from the Chicago, North Western Railroad, which now became their home. This farm, located two and one-half miles southeast of Sioux Rapids remained in the Bennett family for many years. Ten children were born to this home, two of them passed away in early childhood. The children were educated in the country school of Lee township and Sioux Rapids public schools.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett were active in many interests that took place in the pioneer days, as helping with the sick or entertaining people who came from a distance.

## G. A. CADY

Mr. Art Cady came to the Sioux Rapids vicinity in 1894. He lived on a farm south of town until 1897 when the family moved to town.

After graduation from high school, Mr. Cady worked in the First National Bank at Laurens, Iowa, for three years. He then started in the real estate business with his father who had already been in the business for 18 years. Mr. Cady had been in the real estate business for 42 years this fall and with the 18 years his father was in the business makes sixty years that the Cady Land Co. has conducted a real estate business here. No doubt this is a record for northwest Iowa and probably the state as the Cady Land Co. has had no side lines other than the exclusive sale of town and farm property together with loans. Mr. and Mrs. Cady are the parents of two children.

## War Clouds

Our first need for soldiers was to gain protection against the Indians. They had always been wandering tribes and in spite of treaties still traveled for miles, looking for better hunting grounds. Inkpaduta and his band had not signed treaties so they still lurked in the county, destroying homes and property and forced people to leave their homes.

Gov. James Grimes of Iowa wrote to President Franklin Pierce in Washington, D.C., requesting protection for the settlers who had been disturbed by wandering bands of Indians. He asked for the establishment of a military post along the Little Sioux and for at least two companies of dragoons or cavalry to protect the settlers.

Meanwhile the frontiersmen took matters in their own hands and organized the Little Sioux Guards. But there were no funds for guns and ammunition and other necessary equipment. And the settlers lived too far apart to train them as a military unit. George Coonley was Captain of the Little Sioux Guards, and his military company comprised of inhabitants of Clay, Buena Vista and Cherokee county.

In a letter to Governor Grimes he wrote of their difficulties in protecting their homes. In part he said: "We have men but we lack guns and ammunition. Last winter the Indians passing through found the settlers unprepared and took nearly every gun in the three counties. They are upon us again this winter, burning homes and carrying off property and destroying what they do not want. With eleven men we attacked eighteen Indians but several of our guns being useless we were forced to retreat."

But it was not until 1862 when at last the state of Iowa was aroused, Governor Kirkwood sent Schuyler R. Ingham of Des Moines to the state

legislature and ordered a force of mounted men to protect the settlers.

Peterson was the nearest place that protection was sent. There was a part of the old Sioux City Cavalry Company sent there and a fort was built.

"One time while the soldiers were in camp two of them were in Sioux Rapids to do some trading, and on their return they were coming along past the Alliance farm when their horses became very frightened. In a moment they heard several shots fired at them. Knowing that it was Indians, they took after them. The soldiers had nothing but their rifles and had used up nearly all their ammunition. One of the soldiers named Mr. Whitlock, caught one of the Indians back of the old barns. By this time he had nothing left to fight with except his empty gun. One of the Indians knocked him down and would have killed him if the other soldier had not ridden up just in time. He helped Mr. Whitlock to his horse and hurried on to the old Fort, where they got more soldiers and started back after the Indians, but they could not find them again."

A few soldiers were stationed at the Nesseler place to protect the settlers. The first death was that of one of these soldiers. His grave, unmarked and unknown is to be found in Lone Tree Cemetery south of Sioux Rapids.

During 1861 the Civil War began and President Lincoln asked for 75,000 volunteers, however, Sioux Rapids was still isolated and was slow to get news of the outside world. There were so few residents and they were so occupied with their own affairs that none volunteered to serve in the army that first year.

In the summer of 1863 Charles Lee resigned his county office and enlisted, going to Burling-





ton to enter the army for service during the rest of the war.

The constant struggle to pay expenses, raise crops and keep watch for hostile Indians took most of the settlers' time and energy. It was not surprising that the residents felt little interest in the Civil War, of which they knew so little, and which was being fought hundreds of miles away.

Finally as more men were needed a draft was made and in Buena Vista county two men were drawn. Oliver Moore and Henry Gullickson. Neither went, for a substitution was permitted. George Ditton went in place of Mr. Moore, and as Henry Gullickson was not accepted, Knudt Stennerson went in his place. Both of these men lived, but Peter Holland, who in 1864 resigned his job as one of the county supervisors and joined the army, was killed and buried in Tennessee. The rest of the people, anxious to help win the war voted a \$20,000 bond issue in order to help transport troops. In time this great war passed.

Years passed and on April 6, 1917 the United States engaged in World War I.

Sioux Rapids was far from the bustle of war preparation. We were miles from the big training camps and the factories turning out munitions of war.

But a stranger in our midst would have known we were at war. He could not have helped but notice the eager spirit of all those trying to help do their duty. There were the farewells to the men as they left for camp, none knowing where they would be sent. There were crowds at the post offices and mail boxes waiting for the eager word of those telling of their safe arrival. "Over There" and "Till We Meet Again" were sung on street corners and at every gathering.

People gave freely of their hearts and their pocketbooks; everyone responded to the call of the Red Cross. Everyone bought bonds in order to get more money for our boys in khaki.

There was the food conservation program with the administrator pointing out what to save and what not to eat, as it was necessary to provide food for people elsewhere. Herbert Hoover was appointed National Food Administrator.

Flour and sugar were two of the foods that there was a shortage of. The amount of sugar purchased at one time was 10 pounds or a limit of two pounds monthly per person.

An equal quantity of substitute had to be purchased with flour. Corn meal, oatmeal, rice flour, graham and rye counted in this consideration. Six pounds of white flour per person per month was the amount that could be purchased. Meat was another food needed in Europe badly too. An increase in potato production was urged. People used every space of ground to plant gardens.

Demonstrations were given in saving wheat,

meats, fats and sugars. Demonstrations were also given in canning and drying of fruits and vegetables and on saving fuel and clothing.

The war found our women with little or no knowledge of knitting. With grim determination they set to work learning how to knit from those that could and filled the quota that was needed.

On Christmas Day the Red Cross Service Flag was seen in nearly every window. Sioux Rapids reported a membership of 544.

There were many Red Cross sales. At these sales livestock and a great variety of articles were donated and the entire proceeds given to the Red Cross. Articles were sold and resold many times to make more money.

In the fall of 1918, when the influenza swept the community the Red Cross cared for many. Manpower of the country was greatly weakened by the epidemic and every resource at command was made necessary to combat it.

The Sioux Rapids branch of the Red Cross was organized at the home of Mrs. T. M. Murdock on May 25, 1917, by representatives of several aid societies.

Work in hospital supplies was started in the Masonic Hall under the chairmanship of Mrs. George Boynton while Mrs. E. M. Duroe conducted the campaign for knitted garments from her home. Later the work room was moved to the Bank of Sioux Rapids building.

In 1917 the membership was 497, grew to 572 in 1918 and in 1919 it was 302.

The total money sent to the National Red Cross was \$1,926.76. For local work there was raised at a sale, at which W. R. Ritchie was auctioneer, the sum of \$7,000.17. C. L. Sipe was chairman of this committee.

John Brazel, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Brazel was the first Buena Vista county man to make the supreme sacrifice. He had been married to Belle McGrew a few years before he enlisted and they made their home in Sioux Rapids.

E. Everett Norris, a son of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Norris of Sioux Rapids, was appointed secretary to the American Legation at Copenhagen in February, 1918.

A flag pole and a large flag was presented to the town of Sioux Rapids by a patriotic citizen in the spring of 1918.

The Thursday Afternoon Club of Sioux Rapids did much for the war work. A total of \$85 was given for camp library besides sewing that was done each week. Many other things proved a great help.

Finally on November 11, 1918, the German delegates signed the Armistice to end hostilities. The town was wild with celebration. Whistles blew, flags waved and business houses and schools closed. The people were wild with joy.





Twenty-three years later our boys were called up to serve in World War II, for on December 7, 1941, the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor and on December 8, 1941, the United States declared war on Japan.

Japanese war planes left hundreds dead and wounded in attacks without warning against Pearl Harbor.

1942 was the year of rationing, machinery, tires, gas, fuel oil, sugar, canning sugar, coffee and shoes were some of the many things rationed. Ration books were issued to every member of the family. These had coupons for everything that was rationed; these were to be used by a certain time.

You had to have a car stamp in order to drive. This cost \$5.00 annually. There were several rubber and scrap metal drives. Also several blackouts were witnessed in larger cities.

The first war bond drive was launched, and 1944 saw the 4th, 5th and 6th war loans. The quota war bonds was filled. It was during this time that farmers drove horses to town in order to save gas.

1945 saw the end of World War II. Business houses closed but the town remained quiet.

The following interesting poem was taken from a local paper. It was written by Jack Fairchild, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fairchild, while he was in service in the Pacific with the armed forces.

#### WHERE

Somewhere in the Pacific, where  
the sun is like a curse,  
And each long day is followed by  
another slightly worse,  
Where the coral dust blows thicker  
than the shifting desert sand,  
And the white man dreams and  
wishes for a distant, fairer land.

Somewhere in the Pacific, where  
a girl is never seen;  
Where the sky is ever cloudy, and  
the grass is always green;  
Where the rats nightly prowling  
rob a man of sleep;  
Where there isn't any whiskey,  
but cocoanut is cheap.

Somewhere in the Pacific, where  
the nights are made for love  
Where the moon is not a slouch,  
and the Southern Cross above  
Sparkles like a diamond in the  
palmy tropic night;  
It's a shameless waste of beauty  
when there's not a girl in sight.

Somewhere in the Pacific where  
the mail is always late,

A Christmas card in April is con-  
sidered up-to-date;  
Where we never have a pay day,  
for we'd never get it spent,  
Where a letter is a treasurer if  
only one is sent.

Somewhere in the Pacific, where  
the ants and lizards play  
And a hundred fresh mosquitoes  
replace the one you slay.  
So take me back to 'Frisco, let me  
hear the mission bell  
For this God-forsaken outpost is  
a substitute for hell.

A few short years passed and we were again engaged in a war. For in 1949 the United States entered the Korean conflict, although war was never declared.

American ground troops were ordered to Korea June 30, three days after our entrance into the war.

General Douglas MacArthur was named supreme commander of the United Nations forces in Korea on July 9, by President Truman.

On June 29, Seoul fell to North Korea. President Truman ordered U.S. Air and Sea Forces to support South Korean forces.

On July 11, United States tanks went into first action near the Kum River south of Seoul.

Many boys from Sioux Rapids were called into service and several of them gave their lives in the line of duty.

At last a truce agreement was signed at Panmunjom after many historical talks and over 575 meetings over a period of two years and seventeen days. Thus in 1953 ended the long and bloody Korean conflict.

At the memorial exercises during our Centennial year, the list of the soldiers that are buried in Lone Tree Cemetery are as follows:

#### WAR OF 1812

##### Lone Tree Cemetery

James Merritt

#### CIVIL WAR

##### Struble Cemetery

H. D. Perkins

B. D. Sherman

##### Lone Tree Cemetery

Jesse E. Mills  
James W. Craig  
Asa B. Claus  
Harmon Sutton  
George W. Brown  
Dr. Stephen Olney  
John Cheevers  
Henry Phipps  
William Streeter  
G. A. Sweet  
George M. Collins

Knudt Stennerson  
William Coulson  
Edwin Powers  
Silas Whitmarsh  
O. P. Warner  
Daniel Wood  
J. C. Fairbanks  
Barber Eaton  
W. L. Pratt  
Gardner Clough  
James Taylor



Paul Anderson	Innes M. Mackenzie
James E. Carter	Daniel A. Donevan
William H. Scarborough	Charles W. Belnap
Charles M. Clark	Charles H. Burdick
James M. Hoskins	John Burr
W. F. Hartman	David S. Williams

### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Walter Mateson	Neil Johnson
----------------	--------------

### WORLD WAR I

Stanley C. Ammidown	Frank F. Graeber
Ollie Craig	George F. Geiger
Harley H. Claus	Gustav A. Christenson
Jesse Craig	Guy A. Colburn
Earl M. Palmer	Oliver P. Pyam
Lars Johnson	George Elmitt
Victor E. Christenson	Chrest Olson
Albert J. Comeier	Raymond Bertness Sr.
John F. Brazel	Kenneth Barrett
Gilbert C. Smith	Rollo G. Davis

Harold Seebeck	Perle W. Schneck
Charles Winter	Wilfred Hanson
Gabe Bolyard	Walter Grey
Troy W. Swallum	Vernon Sarvold
Johnny Simonson	Harris Stacey
Archibald S. Henry	Adolf Beutner
Otis Grote	

### WORLD WAR II

Harold Rowe	Oscar Peterson
Clarence Wardlow	Vinton Freeman
Donald Landsness	Bruce Werden
Virgel Willard	James Cuthbert
Fredrick Grey	Carl Nydall
Philip Bertness	Thomas McBride
Lyman Eaton	Everett Butler
Warren Griswold	

### KOREAN WAR

John Freeman	Tony Thompson, Jr.
Irving Johnson	

## The Magnificent River

For centuries the Little Sioux River has wended its way through the hills and valleys, sometimes peaceful and calm, sometimes wild and turbulent. It is as fascinating as it was in the yesteryear. Yes, the Little Sioux is alive with memories, emotions, heartaches, and romance as well. Lovely Indian maidens and their lovers strolled along its banks in bygone days, Indian canoes glided swiftly and surely down stream. Many roving tribes pitched their tepees along its banks and the glowing embers of their campfires reflected in its clear waters.

Its banks were lined with stately walnut trees, that was later to provide material for homes of the white man. Other trees grew in abundance, wild grape vines clung to their branches, walnuts and hazel nuts lay thick on the ground in the fall. In places the banks were lined thickly with clusters of undergrowth, affording shelter for beaver, otter and mink. Bordering this on the north the country rises into elevated broken river bluffs and then stretches out into beautiful prairie land which at that time was covered with a dense growth of rank, coarse grass.

Yes, the Little Sioux is a beautiful stream, with its serpentine windings. This splendid stream and its broad rich valleys cannot but fill the mind of the beholder with admiration. Its waters are clear and silvery, its bed rocky and sandy, its current slow and steady and its flow and volume constant.

It was to this beautiful valley that the white man came and this was the beginning of the history of Sioux Rapids.

At first the surveyors came, then the settlers and business men and progress was made in

every nook and corner of the valley. The river provided water for drinking and other uses in the settlement. At first there was no water power within the county except the small dam at Sioux Rapids which provided power to drive a grist mill. Early trappers considered the river as highly important in the fur business. Fishing was as popular in olden days as now, only then it was a necessary means of getting food in order to live.

The Little Sioux was a favorite stream for canoeing and it offered and still does one of the most colorful and scenic trips in Iowa.

It was down this river course that Inkapaduta and his warriors followed on their way to the bloody Spirit Lake massacre. Some of his warriors on that trip were: Inkapaduta or Scarlet Paint. Of his childhood we know little but as early as 1854 there were uprising to the east of us. Major Brassfield was one of the few settlers who knew the cause of these uprisings. It seems that Mr. Brassfield was hunting on Lotts Creek near Livernore. A band of Indians stopped at his place for whiskey but he had none so he directed them to a Mr. Lotts place ten miles south, whom he thought might have some. They went there and Lott got the whole band drunk and killed ten men, women and children with an ax. Josh or Inkapaduta, his Indian name, and a little Indian squa wesepaced. It was in later years that he followed the Little Sioux destroying property and terrifying people along the way until he finally committed the Spirit Lake Masacre.

Other members of this Indian band were: Mak-pe-a-ho-to-man, or Roaring Cloud, and





Mak-pi-op-e-ta, or Fire Cloud, twins, and sons of Inkpaduta.

Taw-a-che-ha-wa-kan or His Mysterious Father.

Ba-ha-ta or Old Man.

Ke-cho-man or Putting on as He Walks.

Ka-ha-dat or Ratling (son-in-law of Inkpaduta).

Fe-to-a-ton-ka or Big Face.

Ta-te-li-da-shink-sha-man-i or One Who Makes a Crooked Wind as he Walks.

Ta-chan-che-ga-ho-ta or His Great Gun.

Hu-san or One Leg.

Many interesting stories are connected with the river. Some of them are as follows:

About 1889 Barnum and Bailey's circus, a railroad show on its way to Huron, S. D., stopped at Sioux Rapids to feed and water the animals. Jumbo (stuffed) was very much in evidence on a car by himself and other elephants, a dozen or so, were driven to the river for watering and it was a great sight to see the entire herd swimming and playing around in the deep water below the dam. When the caretakers tried to urge them to get out, there was one of them, a big bull who refused to obey and put up a splashing barrage against the three horsemen with spears, but after considerable maneuvering, he joined the herd and the show was over.

Mrs. Roy Smith who came to Sioux Rapids in 1901 relates, that the river was dammed up at that time and it made an ideal lake for their launch, also the one owned by Mr. Helsell. Mr. Helsell's partner in the bank was Mr. Farmer. The Smith, Helsell and Farmer families had tents up the river where they slept at night and had a long table where they ate their meals. The camp was known as the "Hell-Roy-Farm" named after the three families. Mrs. Smith continues:

"One time when the river had raised, the only way we could get into and out of the boathouse was to lay flat on the front of the launch and roll in or out. The water was so high there was only a low space to the top of the door. We had a thrilling ride on the flood waters but when I was supposed to roll off the top of the launch, I saw the new Congregational minister, Rev. Martin, standing on the bank ready to greet us. I was a soloist in his church choir and wanted to make a dignified appearance. My husband explained and Rev. Martin looked elsewhere until I was out and up onto the bank."

Mrs. Smith also tells of the fun they had skating on the river. There were many row boats, several launches and a passenger boat on the river at this time. Mr. Saxerud, father of Agnes Seebeck, had a little steamer. People came from distances to ride on the boats and hold picnics on its banks. Mrs. Cole, mother of Benita Williams used to come from as far as Havelock to go boating on the river.

And speaking of high waters of the Little Sioux river, it happened in the spring of 1905 when the high waters were actually level with the dam. On a Sunday, when a crowd of Sioux Rapids folks were assembled down by the dam Charley Gustafson and Julius Osmundson attempted to go over the dam in an 18-foot canoe. Needless to say, when they hit the fast flowing turbulent waters in going over the dam—their canoe was quickly capsized, throwing both into the rough waters. All were submerged for a seemingly long spell—but were suddenly seen to appear far down the stream and all OK. The very next day, George Farmer and Charley Gustafson went over the dam in Roy Smith's launch and all went OK. Then Roy Smith and a group of his friends got into the launch and made an interesting and rather eventful trip down the Little Sioux to Linn Grove and returned that evening by launch.

There has been times that the river has been very low. Of these times Mr. J. F. Thompson says: "One time John Steward drove his whole herd of cattle to water in the river; the range in Herdland township had gone parched and dry. In 1914 I drove my model T Ford across a pontoon that rested on the bottom. I have seen it floating a boat a Cate's corner, but in the spring of 1896 I walked across in low rubbers, dry footed on a plank at the influx of Soldier Creek. Shortly thereafter, a boat was boarded at the railroad track in which I picked my way through the treetops till I landed in Mr. Leighton's corn field."

Many old timers tell of how they used to skate clear up to where the Old Kindlespire bridge stood, a distance of about fifteen miles in the winter when the river was frozen over. It would take nearly a day to make the round trip.

A few years ago Dr. D. E. Endersby and Kenneth Cate skated to Linn Grove on the river, a distance of about eight miles. The trip took them about two hours, with time out for four rest periods. During these rest periods they enjoyed the coffee and refreshments sent along by their wives. Mrs. Endersby drove to Linn Grove and gave the men a ride home.

Over a period of years the river has claimed the lives of several. Some of them were Mr. Hesla, who was the first to drown. Mr. Randall was another victim as were Glen Jacoby and Clarence Christenson, a small boy of perhaps ten years old. There may have been others down through the years that have lost their lives in the Little Sioux at this point. It was only last fall that the river claimed the life of Ray Bright.

Many times the river has flooded, destroying much property. On April 4, 1951, the river overflowed its banks and covered the lowlands with four or five feet of water. At this time it just lacked a foot of reaching the top of the bridge







MRS. LUELLE  
FAIRCHILD



MRS. MATHILDA STEEN  
Early pioneer resident of  
Sioux Rapids

piling, the crest having not yet been reached. Flood water completely covered the adjoining fields and reached as far as the C. & N. W. railway tracks. The city park was completely covered with water and playground equipment and picnic tables were half submerged.

The river flooded again in 1952, and in 1953 flood waters reached a peak not touched in forty years. Volunteers from both the town and country fought the oncoming flood waters in hopes of keeping damages down as low as possible. Sight-seers by the hundreds flocked to Sioux Rapids to see the Little Sioux which was a mile wide at various places. The traffic was so heavy, and with the strain of the flood waters against the cement bridge, that truck traffic on highway 71, was halted for some time. Sandbags were used for protection at the city water plant. Volunteers worked untold hours. Hundreds of acres of crop land was flooded and much property damage took place. People were moved from their homes and belongings were taken to higher ground.

And again in 1954 the river flooded the lands again. With the ground full of water, from the preceding rains, each succeeding rain caused more damage. Thousands of dollars worth of valuable farm lands were swept away. The Little Sioux was a continuous menace between Spencer and Cherokee. It was not as bad a flood as the one in 1953. Willow Creek north of Sioux Rapids was out of its banks, and Highway 71 was blocked for some time. Where the water flooded the low places fish were trapped and many found great enjoyment in landing some big ones. When the waters subsided fishermen again lined the banks of the river in their favorite sport of reeling in catfish and many were lucky enough to snare a walleye.

The river has always proven an attractive spot for both young and old, whether it is to fish or just stroll along its banks and enjoy its many beauties. A day spent at the river makes one feel that all is right with the world.



MRS. STELLA TORKELSON  
First Girl Born in Sioux Rapids



I. B. CHRISTENSEN  
One of the Pioneer Merchants





## Reminiscing

Some of the famous land marks along the Fort Dodge Trail were Green Mound near Marathon. This was a large mound of earth that no one could account for. The next land mark was the lone tree standing high on a hill from which Lone Tree Cemetery derived its name. Some time during the years, a fire was started to burn the dry grass in the cemetery and the growth of this tree was stopped. But here in April, 1955, the dead, old rugged tree that has weathered prairie fires, wind, rain and storm still stands just a little to the north of Abner Bell's grave, in the northern part of Lone Tree cemetery.

Before the coming of the railroad, supplies had to be hauled by oxen and horses from Fort Dodge. This was a very hard trip, as the water in the "big slough" was so deep that horses were forced to swim.

In the summer of 1869, there was a total eclipse of the sun. The stars came out, and to all appearances it was night. People did not know that it was an eclipse, and some of the more fearful ones thought the world had come to an end.

Early settlers were so sure coal would be found around Sioux Rapids that shafts were sunk

in a ravine southeast of the present schoolhouse site, and also one mile east of town across the C. & N.W. Railroad tracks.

Prior to this the settlers hauled coal from the nearest mines at Fort Dodge or burned wood or slough grass, corn stalks or even corn in the coldest weather.

A meeting was called to discuss the locating of coal here, with George G. Espe as chairman and H. T. Saberson, secretary. The result was the forming of a corporation to prospect for coal.

The county board of supervisors took a hand in the matter and an offer was made to any person who would haul to the county at the court house in Sioux Rapids twenty tons of coal from a vein of given dimensions, within the county, the sum of five hundred dollars. The sum of two hundred and fifty was offered for the second mine. Although an effort was made to reap this reward it was never claimed.

In 1870 the settlements were chiefly located along the Little Sioux River in the north end of the county. The central part of the county was a tenantless waste, there being no houses between a point three or four miles south of Sioux Rapids and Storm Lake.

Game was abundant and great herds of elk



**BACK IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS** when practically all members of the Sioux Rapids Commercial Club were present at a meeting this picture was taken. Nearly every businessman in Sioux Rapids at that time is believed to be in this picture—except G. L. Hornor, who was busy taking this picture. How many do you know?

Front row left to right: Theodore Johnson, George Alexander, C. A. Craven, E. M. Duroe, C. E. Ryder, John Staak, J. K. Salveson, R. B. Smith, N. C. Simonsen, W. J. Pulford.

Second row: R. E. George, C. L. Wickman, Halver Halverson, Rush White, H. L. Farmer, G. S. Cate, C. E. Travis, Frank Schweitzer, F. D. White, J. W. Lauman, C. F. Anderson.

Third row: August Sands, G. M. Sherman, P. H. Konzen, H. L. Leikvold, J. W. McFarland, John Schweitzer, J. H. Hale, R. H. Leonard, Donald Cathcart, H. M. Wilson, F. E. Aderson, T. M. Murdoch.

Top row: P. O. Holland, C. E. Matteson, F. K. Northey, Scott W. Whitehead, F. M. Dodge, George Plager, J. O. Osmundson, Mr. Langloy, Bob Nelson, P., O. O. Oberg.





roamed the county. Many of these were killed for food.

The old Stevens home, which stood where the Standard Oil Station is now located, was built and owned by W. S. Blake. Mr. Blake and his family lived in it for many years. It was later torn down.

The first child born in the county, as given by William Brooks was born in 1858 to Mr. and Mrs. Morris Metcalf. The next children born were twins, to Mr. and Mrs. William R. Weaver. There is no actual proof to show that the Metcalf child was the first born.

The story is told Lane and Ray had a "mound building" contest to see who could build the highest one. The mounds of both Lane and Ray attained the height of about four feet. All the old settlers remember these "twin mounds" which were located between Sioux Rapids and Lizard Creek.

When Mr. Blakeley came here he brought a negro family here to help run the creamery. They also helped take care of Mr. Helsell's horses. Watkins was the name of the family. They had been former slaves. They came from Vermont. The children moved to Sioux City from here, and one of them became a porter. The creamery stood where the hotel is now.

Martin Paulson had a hardware business and part of his building is still in existence. It has been moved twice and a part of it forms the house of Robert Napier.

Henry Moore had a livery stable across from where the Sioux Theater is now located. It was still running in 1914 or 1915. You could either engage a driver and buggy to take you places or just engage a horse and buggy.

Before the M. & St. L. Railroad came a stage went from Sioux Rapids to Storm Lake.

Emma Jacobson tells of how she left Storm Lake one day in November at 1 o'clock and arrived at Sioux Rapids about 6 o'clock. Mr. Rock Bentley drove the stage. One stop was made at Peach Stop where the mail was picked up. Due to the cold weather Miss Jacobson sat in the back seat and a fur robe was placed around her for warmth. There was also a stage going to Spencer at that time.

C. B. Mills came here as a young boy and went along with the construction of the railroad. He acted as telegraph operator.

The State Security Bank with Miles, Moe and Hullett stood where the insurance office now is. Mr. Hullett came from Racine, Wisconsin. The Bank of Sioux Rapids was operated by Farmer, Thompson and Helsell. This was the first bank.

The house where the Mogster, Altizer families live used to be the Helsell residence. Mrs. Helsell received an inheritance of \$1,000 and later added to it in order to obtain this home.

Montgomery Ward shipped some cars here for

advertising purposes. This was probably the first car in town. They took people for rides.

When Mr. Pratt was depot agent, Sioux Rapids had four trains a day. One in the early morning, a noon train, afternoon train and an evening train with a sleeper on.

Mr. Cowan was the next depot agent, he had been an operator for Mr. Pratt. Mr. Dugger was one of the later agents.

Scott Bradford was principal of Sioux Rapids school in 1888 where he continued for a year. At the end of the year, however, he accepted the position of cashier in the Farmer, Thompson and Helsell Bank, a private concern in Sioux Rapids where he continued for another year.

In the fall of 1897 he built the Bradford Hotel the leading hostelry of Storm Lake at the cost of \$30,000.

Legreed and Floe were photographers in Sioux Rapids. The price of real nice pictures was twenty-five cents a dozen.

In 1863 Hollingsworth erected his house where the C. & N.W. depot now stands in Sioux Rapids.

Farnham built the same year on Section 6 in Lee Township on the south side of the river.

John Kindlespeyer bought a portable sawmill and set it up on Section 6 in Lee Township, where he supplied the settlers with building material.

The Blake and Tylford Mill was located just north of the Sioux Rapids bridge.

The makeup of Sioux Rapids in the late sixties was considerably different than the present layout.

The first drug store was located where Cate's Store (now Clara's Cafe) stood and was run by J. M. Hoskins and Dr. Olney.

The Leikvold building recently occupied by Gambles' Farm Store, was a shoe shop run by Lars Suckow.

The Ridgeway sod house was located near the present Bales residence. The log stable stood just west of the Lutheran Church and the Storla log cabin stood nearby.

The old Storm Lake road ran a little to the west of the Lewison Hill. The only road north or west of town followed the river to Peterson.

The Fort Dodge Trail ran southeast from the business district. There was also a trail east of town out over Struble Hill.

The old circus grounds were where the Mogster apartments are now.

Mike Holland built the Hotel Holland where the Soo Hotel now stands. Mike Holland came from Story City, Iowa, in the latter part of the 1880's. The hotel gained a far reaching reputation and two of the four passenger trains on the Northwestern stopped daily to let passengers partake of the wonderful food served at Hollands.





This hotel was also known as the Parker Hotel. The Parker Hotel was built by the Sioux Rapids Building and Improvement Co., being completed in November, 1892. The contract was let to Jacob Syverson of Sioux City on June 27, 1892. It was occupied by M. S. Helland from November, 1892, to July, 1894, who gave place to H. J. Tremain who remained its landlord till June, 1896, when Parker and Son took possession and they remained until 1903 when Jas. Swan became the new proprietor. Mr. Swan gave place to William Eslick in 1907 and it remained under this management until Dewolf and Wells of Spencer traded for it.

Later the hotel with all its contents burned. A large crowd gathered and tried to put out the fire but could not. The fire evidently started in the basement and it had gained considerable headway before being discovered. The hotel and contents were valued at about \$15,000 which was covered with about \$7,000 insurance.

The first building of the boom of 1893 was Jacobson's new blacksmith, wagon and paint shop. It was 22x70 with 22-foot posts and a tin roof.

F. D. White and Co's. new brick block was erected on the lot where the building occupied by the Hattie Cox millinery was.

Isaac Galtimore built a new house on his farm east of Sioux Rapids. This was the 3rd or 4th building he erected since he came here 30 years ago.

Philip Eiler erected a nice farm home just across the river from the mill.

Many land exchanges were taking place about this time. Some of them were C. F. Garrison of Britt bought the John Clough 80 acres south of town for \$60 per acre.

The Thomas Morris farm of 160 acres north-west of town was purchased by Jacob Rosenkrans of Spencer.

Thomas Crick bought a farm of 220 acres near Brookings, South Dakota, for \$30 an acre.

C. E. Herrick purchased two farms near Marathon, the J. C. Abney 160 acres at \$47.50 per acre and the U. D. Fisk farm of 160 acres at \$45 per acre.

C. W. Fuller of Rolfe bought the William Zenor farm of 160 acres east of Sioux Rapids for \$55 per acre.

J. H. Mitchell of Marshall Co. bought the Hoag farm six miles north of Sioux Rapids.

C. B. Mills bought the John L. Johnson farm of 200 acres for \$10,000.

T. C. Todd sold his farm to Peter Madson for \$62.50.

F. W. Kidman bought the Gulick Olson 80 acres in Lee Township for \$35 per acre and sold it to C. B. Mills who owned the 80 acres adjoining.

Other events taking place at this time were as follows:

The old soldiers of Sioux Rapids and vicinity held an old fashioned camp fire with supper at the G.A.R. hall and exercises and a good time at Jacobson's hall.

George Collins was showing a pickerel which weighed over twenty pounds, taken from one of the ponds drained from washing out of the old mill dam.

E. A. Jacobs, a professional cook, was cooking for F. E. Johnson's railroad laborers.

A. Tyneson purchased a swell, single-seated, rubber-tired road wagon and when drawn by his spirited driving horse put him in envied position.

A patent was allowed Frank Priestly on his rotary engine. He expected to build several more.

Four dray loads of fruit and ornamental trees were delivered to Sioux Rapids people from one nursery.

N. H. Crowell was getting quite a reputation as a writer. An article written by him appeared in the *Field and Stream*, a magazine of sport and adventure.

B. W. Talcott of Sioux Rapids had his horse and buggy stolen from his barn.

Gifford and Manly bought the engine and boiler of the creamery and will use it either in their warehouses or their elevator.

W. Alex Cuthbert of Sioux Rapids was among the prize winners at the corn exhibit during the Farmers Institute held at Storm Lake.

R. F. Thomas and Charles Cady went on a two weeks tour of inspection through Oklahoma Indian Territory and Southern Arkansas.

T. C. Thurber says that some boys are in danger of getting in trouble for visiting his melon patch.

LaFurge and Carter are conducting a Livery and Feed Stable in the Agnew barn and are prepared to furnish good rigs with drivers.

Ed Hollenson purchased the C. P. Jacobson Meat Market.

For six years before 1870 Buena Vista County had been attached to Clay County for judicial purposes. The general assembly at the session of that year separated the counties and provided for holding courts in Buena Vista County. The first term of district court was held May 5, 1870 in the home of George Struble.

Mr. Blake was the first member of the general assembly from the county serving as representative from it in 1872.

Mr. John Wart, who lived at Newell made many trips from there to Sioux Rapids. He would always put up at the Hollingsworth house, and later when Struble had a hotel he stayed there. Once he heard of a cow for sale at Sioux Rapids that he could buy so he went



and bought her from a Mr. Blake. He led the cow clear home but she got so lame he had to stop on the way and continue to Newell in the morning.

Mr. Wart was married at Sioux Rapids in 1877, by James Hoskins who was the justice of peace at that time.

Mr. W. E. Couch once told that it did not take much money in the early days to get married. A few days before his wedding he drove to Sioux Rapids to get his wedding outfit. He paid \$9.00 for his suit and he thought his whole outfit did not cost more than \$14.00. He made arrangements with the justice of the peace to perform the ceremony. This only cost him a dollar.

William Brooke, the man who helped the early settlers so much died at the Central House in Sioux Rapids.

Minnie Blaylock of Marathon arrived in town and commenced her duties as head teacher in the Diamond Garment Cutter College located in Sioux Rapids.

Sioux Rapids had the most complete and up-to-date Brick and Tile Factory in the state.

Guy Knudson and Ed Norby have cleared the mill pond and flooded it, electric lights have been strung. It will be used as a skating rink.

In 1899 C. T. Knudtson sold his Merry-go-round. A. A. Skinner had a case of strawberries shipped in from Chicago. They were the first on the market.

Grace Noll Crowell came to Sioux Rapids as a bride in 1901. They started housekeeping in a little brick house. The many lovely poems that she has written have been read by thousands. All through the years since she has moved away she has not forgotten her old home town of Sioux Rapids and continues to speak lovingly of it. While here she was a member of the Thursday Afternoon club. She became internationally known as a writer of verse and also was the American Mother of 1938. Before his death her husband, Norman Crowell, took over the business end of her work and helped her in many different ways. We are indeed proud to claim her as a one time resident of our fair city.

In 1930, S. J. Hoyt listed coal off the car at the following prices: Kentucky coal \$9.75 per ton; Missouri coal \$5.75 per ton and hard coal \$11.25.

Seaburgs remodeled the inside of their store and put in new shelves to permit a bigger and more convenient stock arrangement.

In the earlier years at one time Abner Bell owned a beautiful span of horses that was the envy of many. He also had a big dog named Kernal. He did much to promote progress in Sioux Rapids.

The graduating class of 1903 consisted of: Corrine Helsell, Maude Lamb, DeNora Skinner, Clara Farmer and Jennie Halkney.

Some of the early barbers were Enoch Davis, Clarence Evans and George Smith. Charles Winters worked for Mr. Davis and finally bought him out.

The "Gay Nineties" ushered in improvements in more ways to both husband and wife. Implementations of all kinds were introduced adding to the efficiency of man labor. Perhaps the housewife got the lion's share of the advancements. No longer was she dependent on the spinning wheel, cards and loom for the family's apparel. Ready-made garments were at her disposal in our village stores.

Housing made wonderful strides forward, as where log cabins and prairie shacks housed growing families, now more spacious and convenient dwellings were erected.

These improvements were during the era when our fair village was beginning to "feel its oats." The era of Dobbin was first and foremost. And quoting J. F. Thompson: "Those days you held your breath when Judge Helsell returned from the county seat driving his team of black roadsters, hitched to a rubber-tired top buggy, splitting the air at the rate of 10 miles per hour. Or the sudden appearance of a cyclist coming down First Street, perched on top of a four-foot wheel with a small caster wheel in the rear irritating the town dogs to a yelping pursuit."

Old Dobbin was still in use, but "those good old gas buggies" were becoming known. Thus time marches on.

## Approaching 1955

We are now approaching the year 1955, and as we do many interesting things have taken place. In the following paragraphs we will list a few.

Speaking of weather, let it never be said that 1936 was a year without a summer—or without a winter for that matter. Because we hit both extremes that year. After a winter where the temperature never got above 20 degrees below zero for several weeks, on the 4th of July a

scorching southwest wind sent the thermometer up to a new record of 113 degrees. The attendance at the celebration at the park for the benefit of the Sioux Rapids band was greatly reduced because of the heat. However, a number of picnic dinners were enjoyed in the park. The band gave an hour long concert immediately after dinner. The ball game during the afternoon resulted in the victory of the Sioux Rapids team over Spencer by a score of 5 to 3.





"Tall Corn Days" was celebrated July 16, 17 and 18, 1936, with the Mahon's Carnival Company secured for the three big days. Three prizes totaling \$30.00 was given for the tallest corn. A bowery dance was held in the evening and the uniformed band played both afternoon and evening.

Ed Taylor of Des Moines known as "Alabama's Laughing Killer," was captured in Sioux Rapids by Ace Caskey and the Sioux Rapids authorities Oct. 18, 1941. Mr. Taylor was wanted by Alabama state prison authorities.

The M. & St. L. railway was discontinued in 1936, and the bridges were torn down by the Fort Dodge Iron and Metal company with a crew of 30 men which worked on the eight huge trestles. The famous Half Mile bridge was one of these. This trestle which carried trains over the Little Sioux river valley was the largest railroad structure in northwest Iowa. It was more than 3,000 feet long and 75 feet high over the river. The greater part of the bridge was of wood construction but the section crossing the river and Northwestern tracks was of steel.

Another of these trestles was known as the "Horse Shoe Bridge," it was 106 feet high. This bridge was badly damaged by a cyclone in 1920 and was partially rebuilt at that time.

This line was constructed in 1900 as a branch from Spencer to Storm Lake and it was the hope of builders to extend the line to Omaha. More than 800 carloads of lumber were used in the construction of trestles on this line and of this 90 carloads were used in the "Half Mile" bridge alone.

The original cost as well as the upkeep of the bridges was one of the big factors which kept the branch in the red throughout its existence. The condition of the bridges had become so bad that replacement was necessary and together with the fact that business had fallen off so that the abandonment of the line was permitted.

The rails were taken up and used elsewhere on the M. & St. L. lines. The ties, telegraph poles, wire and other equipment along the right of way was sold to farmers. The bridge timbers were also sold locally, but most of it was shipped out. One shipment to one concern consisted of a million feet of lumber or what amounted to 50 carloads.

Prices quoted in 1936 at Cate's Store were: Coffee 24c per lb., soda crackers 2 lbs. 17c, cocoa  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. 10c, oysters, pint 29c, Ivory soap 4 bars for 25c, sirloin steak (cornfed) 22c per lb., pork sausage 22c per lb., and Lewis lye 3 cans for 25c.

The auction sale of antiques and household goods of Emily Eade in Sioux Rapids drew one of the largest crowds of people ever to attend that type of sale was held in October of 1951.

Orville Becker checked the license plates on the cars and noted they were from Cherokee, Woodbury, Dickinson, O'Brien, Black Hawk, Carroll, Mitchell, Pocahontas, Sac, Clinton, Palo Alto, Webster, Polk, Floyd, Linn, Emmet, Clay and Buena Vista counties beside one car from California and two from Minnesota. The bidding commenced at 1 o'clock and continued until 6:30 that evening.

1950 brings the announcement that N. W. Light and Power Company plan to erect a new \$80,000 generating plant in Sioux Rapids.

It also brings the news that the city has installed a new police call system, the C. & N. W. Railway has asked permission to discontinue passenger service on the local line, Chamber of Commerce adopts the Blue card plan, N. W. Bell telephone announce increase in rates, Grote sells Standard Oil station to Bill Rolland, author of "Forever Amber" visits G. A. Cady home, Sioux Rapids passes two million dollar mark in sales for fiscal year, Chamber of Commerce announce a membership of ninety-three, Norgaard's Furniture store opens its doors to the public, first night school session began and the Masonic lodge observes its 75th anniversary.

M. W. Polson announces the opening of his chiropractic office in Sioux Rapids on January 5, 1950. Its first location was up above the post-office but in February of 1954 he moved his office to a ground floor location, that of the former Torkelson building. The interior of the building is arranged in such a manner as to acquire easy accessibility to each department. The walls and ceiling are decorated in pastel shades, trimmed in natural wood finish. Modern designed wrought iron furniture has been used in the furnishings.

The new Memorial Library was built in 1949. It is a combination Library and Community Center, having been built at the cost of \$20,000. It was built by donations raised by the town and surrounding community and was sponsored by the Lions Club. It includes a public library, a large meeting hall and kitchen facilities. The library contains around 9,595 books. Not more than 500 books have been discarded since the beginning. The library also has subscriptions to about 24 magazines.

The first library was in the Methodist Church in 1924 with Miss DeNora Skinner as librarian and Mrs. F. D. White as President of the library board. The library has had many homes since then, the next one being in the upstairs rooms of what is now the People's Food Store. Its next home was in the Central House, now replaced by the Sioux Theatre, then to the downstairs section of the Burr apartment house, then to the basement of what is now the Holders Variety store. Its next location was the front of the old *Bulletin Press* office. From here it was





moved to its new home, the new Memorial Library.

On May 30, 1950, the new building was dedicated in honor of the service men of World War II. It was open throughout the day to the public and the dedication was in charge of the American Legion Post of Sioux Rapids. Mrs. Luella Fairchild has been librarian for more than 25 years.

The present Library board consists of Mrs. T. R. Campbell, Mrs. A. J. Scott, Mrs. Glen Johnson, Mrs. Katherine Davidson, Mrs. L. D. Williams, Mrs. Art Cady and Supt. E. J. Parks.

In 1946 the beautiful new Theatre was built for Don Gran on the location of the old Central Hotel by C. I. Hersom, contractor from Laurens. It is one of the most modern theatres in every way in northwest Iowa. It has the most up-to-date "Cry Room" where mothers with little children may enjoy the latest entertainment. Its powder room and lounge is most beautifully decorated. There is also the popular corner nook where refreshments may be had. The new movie house plays the latest movies, many times before they are played elsewhere.

For those of you who were fortunate enough to see the recently shown film "Chief Crazy Horse" portraying the true story of Custer's last stand, and filmed in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota, we might add that history tells us that our old enemy, Inkpaduta, of our earlier day was in the background of those scenes in the show. The story is that the last appearance of Inkpaduta was in 1876 and on the morning of the day that General Custer made his ride on the Indian camp, Inkpaduta was then 75 years old and stone blind. At this time he was sitting on the banks of the Little Big Horn east of the encampment with two of his grandsons and the three of them were fishing in the stream. The little boys were the first to see Major Reno's command as it came riding up the valley to hold the Indians on the south while Custer should come down from the north. They ran as fast as they could with their blind, decrepit grandsire and gave the alarm in time. Inkpaduta could not walk without a guide. He and his two sons fled with Sitting Bull to Canada, finally locating in southwestern Manitoba, where a few short years later he died.

The Sioux Theatre where this interesting film was shown is located in downtown Sioux Rapids and is under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Al Gran.

John Brummer is listed as being one of the oldest business firms in town. He came in 1910 and has been a dealer in the implement business ever since. With the help of his son, Roy, they are able to give the best of service. Both John and Roy are ardent trail riders and attend many of these events.

Oscar Mays now located on Main Street has been in the barbering business for 41 years, 32 of them in his own shop.

Maude Travis has been in business since around 1917. She runs a very up-to-date Variety Store. Mrs. Travis was born in 1884 in the house where Bappes now live. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Lamb. Her father was always so friendly, that he was sometimes called "Genial Jim Lamb." He was the first Standard Oil tank wagon man in Sioux Rapids. He drove four horses on the tank wagon. He was also drayman at one time.

J. A. Malone's new law office is one of the latest additions to the Sioux Rapids business district. This new brick structure is located next to the library. Mr. Malone was formerly located in the Dr. Campbell building. Mr. Malone has been a very capable attorney for the Sioux Rapids area for quite some time and he is assisted in the office by his wife, Mrs. Malone.

Roy Burr, who has observed his 72nd birthday on April 27th, first started working in a retail store in 1899 for F. D. White and Son. In 1914 he entered the real estate business for one year and then in 1915 he formed a partnership with Oliver Olson in a general store.

The two men sold out in 1930 to Kaplan and bought out the A. L. Pollock Ford Agency. They sold this business back to Pollock the same year and opened a finance office for one year.

Roy Burr and Oliver Olson then started a clothing and shoes retail establishment in 1931 which they operated as partners until Mr. Olson's death in May of 1952. Richard (Dick), son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Burr purchased the partnership share of Olson at the time of his death. Richard Burr graduated from the Sioux Rapids high school in 1935, attended Morningside college and National Business Training school. He also saw service in World War II, both in the United States and Europe.

There have been five generations of Burrs in Sioux Rapids, John, George, Roy, Richard and his two little daughters, Micheale and Stephenie.

The new Standard Oil Service Station was open for business in September, 1952, under the management of Norb Joyce. The two-stall super service station is of the latest design and is located on Highway 71.

It is unusual for a town the size of Sioux Rapids to have an apartment house but in 1949 Don Gran built a new modern one. This large structure is modern in every way and contains fourteen apartments.

Among Sioux Rapids' newer developments along Highway 71 was the building of the O. K. Motel. It contains eight units. Along this stretch of highway there are super markets, filling stations, implement stores, cafes, Zero Inn and the





Steak House. A new Dairy Sweet is now being built.

Some of the newer buildings on Main street are the E&L Clothing Store, the Hamburger Shop and the *Bulletin-Press*.

The *Bulletin-Press* building is of brick structure. In May of 1954 a new Original Heidelberg automatic press, for the purpose of improved commercial printing was installed. The press is capable of printing 5,000 pieces an hour and in long runs, two jobs can be placed on the press at the same time, giving a maximum speed of 10,000 per hour. Ted Witter and Bob Coffman are equipped to carry a full coverage of the news from this community, also national news and markets.

Another new addition to the town was the addition to the Johnson building on Main Street, housing the Schuelke Motors. The block structure is on the west side of the old building with the entrance way from the south and a wide display window to the west. The new addition will be used for the display of cars.

Construction of two new homes has begun, that of Gordon Larson next to the one he recently built and the new home of Dr. and Mrs. Mattice. Other new homes are those of Fred Grapenthin in 1952, Art Simino, Mrs. Agnes Seebeck, Carl Phipps, Henry Herrig and several other fine ones have been constructed in recent years.

The new Catholic Church was constructed in 1947. In the fall of 1948 the construction of the rectory was commenced and it was finished in 1949.

A new use maintainer was purchased to replace the old one in 1954.

A new fire truck was delivered to Sioux Rapids from the Luverne plant in Minnesota in 1954. This replaces the old one bought in 1928.

Through the efforts of the Business and Professional Women and the Lions club a new brick fireplace was added to the park in 1952. It has a grill and a place for the storage of fire wood and was built for the use of the public.

Mrs. M. L. Evans of Sioux Rapids was the first woman in the history of the Spencer Country Club to make a hole-in-one on that course. It was accomplished in the Ladies Invitational tournament.

Each year merchants and hospital honor the first baby born in the local hospital. Many beautiful gifts are given both the mother and baby.

The Junior Rifle Club was organized in February of 1952, with Jay Simonson as President and Jim Parks as vice-president. Twenty-two members signed at this first meeting.

The local rifle club competed in a meet at Rockwell City, August 17, 1953 and placed third in the five-team competition.

The Sioux Rapids ball team won the North

Sioux baseball championship in a 2-1 victory over Ruthven in 1953.

Sioux Rapids has been given credit for starting the first co-operative livestock shipping association.

Like all progressing cities, sometimes it takes a disaster to have something organized. Such was the case of our first Fire Department. It was organized following the disastrous Sioux Hotel fire. The members were given a banquet in the new brick hotel after completion. Those members attending were R. H. Lenard, T. M. George, Halfor Helmers, John Stack, C. L. Wichman, J. O. Osmundson, Joe Dahl, Clyde Messerschmidt, N. C. Simonsen, T. M. Dodge and A. B. Snyder.

Fire was discovered in the rear of the Star theatre building Dec. 24, 1920. The damage to the theatre amounted to approximately \$2,000. The cause of the fire was unknown.

Street markers were erected on August 2, 1951, which was a very helpful improvement to the town.

In 1952, a \$11,000 telephone improvement and expansion program was announced. Sioux Rapids' present dial system was installed in 1940. At that time there were only 328 phones and in 1952 there were over 500.

The first Ground Observation Corps Post was organized in Sioux Rapids in September, 1954. The Observation Post is at Jack's Service Station.

The first meeting of the Safe Driving Club was organized this spring with 18 members present. Ronnie Stennerson was elected and Wade Smith counselor. The name for the club was decided to be "Sioux Rapids Safe Soos."

A youth center was organized in the winter of 1954-55 with Mrs. Mae Kischer at its head. Twenty-two meetings have been held since its organization. Each meeting is chaperoned by different mothers.

Larsen Bros. came to Sioux Rapids in 1920. They were located in the building now occupied by the People's store. They built the store which is their present location in 1939. Many changes have taken place on Main street. John Brummer is the only merchant who has not changed his location during this time.

Earl Larsen and his three sons have built five new homes in Sioux Rapids. They also built the Hamburger shop.

Of our new hospital the following is related:

There always comes a time when hard working people feel they should retire and that's what Mrs. Sickles had in February of 1948, for that's when Mrs. Dwight Fernau bought our local hospital. She took over the duties on April 1st after the upstairs was remodeled into a maternity ward. At this time Mrs. Sickles moved into her lovely home across the street.

In August of 1948 the Fernau's started construction of an addition to the hospital which





was to be their own living quarters. This was completed October 1st.

During the first year the patients averaged 4 a day, and each year increased to 6, then 8, then 9, and then 10. In 1954 the average was 12.

By the spring of 1950 larger living quarters were needed by the family and more room required for patients. The lot north of the hospital was purchased from J. A. Malone and the new house started in July and was completed in December.

By seeing the needs of the patients, Mrs. Fernau is always improving our hospital. She had fire escapes added to the hospital in 1949 and 1950. In the last two years equipment consisting of 4 Hi-Low beds, 2 mechanical lifters, 1 walker, 1 collapsible wheel chair were bought. There was also another incubator added to the nursery equipment in 1950.

There is now under construction another new brick addition which will be a new O.B. department, consisting of 5 patient rooms, 1 labor room, 1 delivery room and a nursery with a formula kitchen connected. This will be in use by August 1, 1955. The present nursery will be converted into a pediatric ward, and the old O.B. department will be used for chronic illness. This will consist of 6 beds. The downstairs will have 13 beds. The kitchen will be enlarged and remodeled.

The personnel of the hospital has enlarged as the bed occupancy has increased. At the present time there are 5 full time aides, 1 housekeeper, and 2 cooks, and a registered nurse is available to all departments at all times.

Since coming here Mr. Fernau has been on call as substitute teacher in this vicinity, and has been employed a part of each year as such. And

our "Josie" of course, has been doing her duties faithfully each day and without her to provide a hospital for our town's needs, we surely would not have the wonderful asset we do have, and so gratefully appreciate.

The Olson Shoe and Repair Shop is another of the business places that has been on main street for some time. In fact the first of October it will be 31 years. Mr. Oscar Olson came to Sioux Rapids in 1910 and graduated from high school in 1923. He started working with his father, Herman Olson in the shoe repair shop in 1924. With the passing of his father, Mr. Olson hired a Mr. Green from Des Moines to help that first year and since then he has been alone. The shop was located in the building now occupied by Williams Skel-gas. After 19 years he moved to his present location where he has been for 12 years. There have been many changes since Mr. Olson came in the shoe repair business.

Harvey Ryan has also been in business for 31 years. Vic Shirk was in business for 12 years and Leonard Knudtson has been trucking since 1931. In 1940 Bob Williams pioneered the bottle gas business here as before that there was no other dealer. Mr. Williams saw service in the war in the European theatre.

Mr. Wells, our local barber started in business three years ago, where Heinie Simon had his shop. Mr. Wells saw 4 years of service in the war, in the European theatre.

The George Drug Store has been in business for over 40 years. Ted is now retired and the store is now run by his two sons, Homer and Aubrey. We wish we could write something about each of our business places for they each do their share in making the town what it is today.

## BUSINESS FIRMS OF 1955

Allis Chalmers Sales and Service.....Claire Ferguson  
Anderson Floyers.....Cyril Anderson  
Arnett Hardware.....Al Arnett  
Bill's Standard Service.....Bill Rolland  
John Brummer Implements.....John and Roy Brummer  
Evalyn Buckner (Massage).....  
Buck Plumbing and Heating.....R. J. Buck  
Bulletin-Press.....Ted Witter and Bob Coffman  
Burr's Clothing.....Richard Burr  
Cady's Land and Real Estate.....G. A. Cady  
Physicians and Surgeons.....T. R. Campbell &  
R. J. Mattice  
Carris Auto Service.....Harvey Carris  
C. & N.W. Railway Depot.....  
Chrysler & Plymouth Sales and Service.....Vic Schuelke  
Clara's Cafe.....Clara Torkelson  
Coast-to-Coast Store.....Jay Bales  
Gamble Store.....Harry Blackert  
Cuthberts Feed Yards.....  
Dennis Pool Hall.....L. J. (Bud) Dennis  
The Dress Shop.....Mrs. Alvin Moe  
E & L Clothing.....M. L. Evans  
D. E. Endersby (Dentist).....  
Farm Implement Co.....

Farm Service Co.....Art Johnson  
First State Bank.....Louis Pingel and Arthur J. Scott  
Ford Sales and Service.....Ralph Young  
George's Drug Store.....Aubrey and Homer George  
J. E. Gilbertson (Dentist).....  
Saw Filing and Lawnmower Sharpening.....Dan Haase  
Hallett Construction Co.....  
Henry Funeral Home.....Lowell Henry  
Herrig Implement Co.....Henry Herrig  
Hill Top Club.....Elmer Olson  
Holder's Variety Store.....L. J. & Merrit Holder  
Hotel Sioux.....Mrs. Smith  
Standard Oil Agent.....Enos Huffman  
Jack's Standard Service.....Jack Rukes  
Jean's Beauty Salon.....Jean Ferguson  
Rusty's Beauty Shoppe.....Rusty Cuthbert  
Johnson's Food Market.....Glen Johnson  
Krile's Royal Blue Food Store.....Paul Krile  
Veterinarians.....Drs. I. J. & R. C. Kleaveland  
Trucking.....L. E. Knudtson  
Larson Hardware.....Earl and Evans Larson  
Trucking.....Myrtle and Bill Lauman  
Don's Hamburger Shop.....Don Anderson  
J. A. Malone (Attorney).....





Marsh "66" Station.....C. E. Marsh  
 Barber Shop.....Oscar Mays  
 Moe's Radio Service.....Alvin Moe  
 O. K. Motel.....L. J. and Oral Schlemme  
 Norgaard Furniture.....E. J. Norgaard  
 Northwestern Light & Power Co.....  
 Shoe Repair Shpo.....Oscar Olson  
 People's Food Market.....Harold Chesley  
 Chiropractor.....M. W. Polson  
 Quaker Oats Co.....L. D. (Butch) Williams  
 Remikard Plumbing & Heating.....Waldron Remikard  
 Rice & Lehr Insurance.....Jim Rice and Jerry Lehr  
 Ryan Grain Co.....Harvey Ryan  
 Samuelson Feed & Supply.....  
 Sundblad Livestock Buyer.....Oscar Sundblad  
 Sioux Bowling Lanes.....Percy Spurlock  
 Sioux Machinery & Electric Service.....  
 Sioux Rapids Breeders Coop. Ass'n.....Richard Alverson,  
 Tech.  
 Sioux Rapids Hatchery & Produce.....Martin Heidelbauer  
 Your Produce.....Leona Heidelbauer

Sioux Rapids Hospital.....Mrs. D. W. Fernau  
 Sioux Rapids Rendering Works.....  
 Sioux Rapids Skelgas Service.....Bob Williams  
 Soo Chevrolet Sales and Service.....Harvey Dailey  
 Soo Cleaners.....Harry Nelson  
 Sioux Theatre.....Al Gran  
 Steak House.....Mrs. Schloff  
 Stout-Built Homes.....J. E. Gilbertson, Contractor  
 Sundblad Truck Lines.....Oscar Sundblad  
 Thompson Yards.....Gale Halverson  
 Tork's Inn.....Eddie Torkelson  
 Warne's Wonderland.....Sally and Harry Warne  
 Simonsen's Iron Works.....Walter Simonsen  
 Travis Variety Store.....Maude Travis  
 Wilbert Vault Co.....  
 Painting and Paper Hanging.....Vance Adams  
 Barber.....Lawrence Wells  
 Iowa Liquor Store.....A. Turnquist and Howard Sawyer  
 Commercial Fertilizer.....Elmer A. Hanson  
 Gravel and Dirt.....R. A. Napier

## Sioux Rapids 1955

Sioux Rapids has now witnessed the sunset of the past century and is now ready to greet the dawn of a new century.

In reading over the past history of the early pioneers, of their hopes and fears, of their hardships and struggles, and of their joys and sorrows, perhaps the aged pioneer whom we honor so much may live life over again and vision himself in the days of yesteryear. He hears the call of the wolf and the wild animals, and visions the snow covered earth in winter and the coming of the gentle spring with its profusion of wild flowers and song birds or perhaps the flight of wild geese in the golden autumn.

As we mention names of different ones the picture of the past again rises up.

Yes, there are memories that the heart can never forget, of the Little Sioux Valley that was God's handiwork untouched yet by human hands.

It is now 1955 and the Indian had had to give up his home, the elk and the buffalo are gone. The prairie sod has been turned over many times. The wild flowers with their gorgeous coloring have been cut down. About the only virgin soil left is that along the railroad tracks. A second growth of trees has grown to replace many of the older ones. Perhaps a few huge old stumps of the stately oak can be found.

No longer do we see the glow of the candle, except at formal dinner parties or hear the tinkle of the cow bell on old bossy grazing on yon distant hill.

Nor, do we hear the Indian war whoop or fear his treachery. There has been many changes since those pioneer days. It is now a brave new modern world, deep freezers take the place of cool cellars where mother cooled the milk and butter, automatic washers take the place of wash boards, cars and planes are means of travel instead of oxen or horses. We have electricity which makes our work easier.

Many old timers will agree that those early days were best; the present generation will think these are. Who knows?

Yes, there has been many changes but there is still friendliness left, the willingness to help a sick neighbor or one in need, the joy to share a cup of coffee with a friend, or to visit over the back yard fence.

The pleasure has extended all down through the years and to enjoy it all one needs to do is to visit Sioux Rapids.

As we look into the future, in the following paragraphs we will see what our little city looks like during our Centennial year. There is a hustle and bustle with a feeling of anticipation, preparedness for the big cele-

bration in August. Ladies in beautiful, old time gowns, men with beards and mustaches and wearing tall hats are seen on the streets.

Attics are being turned inside out in search of some of grandmother's things; old family albums are brought out, men are searching through their buildings for old farm equipment. And such fun to share our findings with our friends.

With things well on the way itself we might pause a bit and note what things in general are like.

Bright, flashy cars of every color of the rainbow line the streets of our town. These are beautifully streamlined and powerful.

Fashions for men also follow the trend of bright colors. Charcoal, pink, mint green, lime green, heliotrope, and chartreuse. Not only shirts are featured in these colors but hats, slacks and socks.

Dacy Crockett is the "man of the hour" with the youngsters, the song Davy Crockett hit the top for several weeks and still remains among the top ten. Not only is his song popular, but youngsters clothes are fashioned after his and are seen in the local store windows. One drug store is showing Davy Crockett wall paper for youngsters rooms.

The melodious voice of Eddie Fisher is heard floating out on the evening breeze from some nearby juke box. Other popular songs of the year are: "Let Me Go Lover," "I Need You Now," "Melody of Love," "Changing Partners," and "Count Your Blessings."

With everyone doing the mambo several songs were brought out such as "They are Doing the Mambo," by Vaughn Monroe and "Papa Loves Mambo," by Perry Como.

Although every soloist is not the same, these songs are the most popular and appear somewhere among the ten top ones. "Heart," by Eddie Fisher, "Unchained Melody," by Lex Baxter, "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White" by Perez Prado, "Ballad of Davy Crockett" by Bill Hayes, "Dance With Me Henry," by Georgia Gibbs, "A Blossom Fell," by Nat Cole, "Hey, Mr. Banjo" "Learnin' the Blues" by Frank Sinatra, "Whatever Lola Wants" by Dinah Shore.

Sioux Rapids lays at an altitude of 1,380 feet and the town of 1,100 population is showing steady, well-balanced growth with a promising future. It is a farmer's town, friendly, clean and proud of its many accomplishments.

Its busy streets are lined with cars, and along both sides of the street extend fresh and inviting stores both specialty and general.





This booming little town is blessed with six fine churches, many beautiful homes, a good hospital, school and library. Business is also booming along the highway shopping area.

The town has these officers:

L. D. Williams, Mayor.

Harvey Carris, Waldron Remilliard, L. M. Emans, Rodney Kleaveland and Henry Herrig, Councilmen.

Richard Burr, Town Clerk.

Gale Halverson, Park Commissioner.

Rush Williams, Water Commissioner.

A. B. Caskey, Police Officer.

August Meyer, Peace Officer.

Jim Matthies, Street Commissioner.

Dr. T. R. Campbell, Health Officer.

Heading the Chamber of Commerce are: Al Arnett, President; Lowell Henry, Secretary; Vic Schuelke, Homer George, Merritt Holder, Al Gran, Wayne Hansen, Waldron Remilliard, Ralph Young and Eddie Torkelson are the Board of Directors.

Don Stanzel was elected president of the Sioux Ra-

pids Lions Club at the annual election with Harvey Carris, vice-president, Harry Warne, tail twister and Guy Jones and Clyde Jones board members.

There is a seven week summer play ground activity program sponsored by the Lions which began June 13 with Martha Marsh and Gary Halverson in charge.

The fire department consists of: A. B. Caskey, chief; Jim Matthies, assistant chief; George Krohn, rural chief; Ronald Holleson, assistant town chief; Raymond Lindliet, Lloyd Sarvold, Al Treinen, Dick Haldin, Ben Behrens, Denis Breuer, Enos Huffman, Rush Williams.

There are four federated clubs in the community namely: The Thursday Afternoon Club, Study Club, Leo Community and the Sorosis Club.

The Thursday Afternoon Club of Sioux Rapids enjoys the distinction of being the oldest study club in Buena Vista County and the third oldest in the Eighth District.

Organized study clubs were not as much in evidence in northwestern Iowa in the early days as at present, but from the time of the arrival of Mrs. J. P. Farmer,







Harry Blackert, Merritt Holder, Al Arnett, Jim Rice, Jay Bales, Chic Evans, Les Cornwell, Waddy Remillard, Eve Thomas, Lawrence Wells, Carl Zehner, Gale Halverson, (lighting firecracker) Harry Warne, Aubrey George, Charles Gustafson, Jay Simonsen, Walter Simonsen, Homer George, Ted Witter. Picture taken by Bob Coffman. "Modern Styles for Men." Taken July, 1954.

club historian, in 1883, there has always been a community desire to unite in some form of social, literary or musical effort outside of church work. For some time the group met in the evening, informally.

The minutes of these meetings have been lost, as have the official records up to 1905, also the list of charter members. This "Society" was the ancestor, so to speak, of the present club, and was organized as such in 1893, although it did not bear the present name for some years, but was called the "Literary" or Thursday Club."

According to the by-laws adopted in 1899, the name "Thursday Afternoon Club" was adopted and became the official name as it is today. It was known then as a study club, and so continues to be, with some social life. The president-elect is Mrs. Carol Burr.

The 50th anniversary was fittingly observed on September 23, 1943 at an afternoon tea held in the parlors of the Methodist church and the following poem was sent to the club by Mrs. Crowell to be read on this occasion:

#### OH, TO LIVE BEAUTIFULLY

Oh, to live beautifully for my brief hour  
As does a wayside flower;  
Unperturbed by the strange brevity  
Of time allotted me;  
Undisturbed by the overshadowing shine  
Of climbing tree and vine;  
Bravely stemming the wind and the beating rain,  
Bowing and lifting again;  
Within me some strong inner force as bright  
As a poppy filled with light;  
My feet firm-rooted in the earth's good sod  
My face turned toward God;  
Yielding some fragrance down the paths I know  
A little while—then go  
As a flower goes, its petals seeking the ground  
without a cry or sound;  
But leaving behind some gold seed lightly thinned  
To blow upon the wind.

Other clubs are the Business and Professional Women; P.E.O. Sisterhood; Psi Gamma Chi; O.E.S., Buena Vista Chapter; Royal Neighbors; American Legion; Amvet Auxiliary; Osborne Aid; Church Aids; Band Booster Clubs; H.O.F. Club; Club Sixteen; Happy Hour Club; Ohiad Club; Mending Club; Supper Club; Hi-Lo Bridge Club; Jolly Ate Cub; Easy Dozen; Ace High; E & B Bridge Cub; B. A. Club; Sioux Bridge; Pinnocle Club.

Promenaders Square Dance Club.

Cribbage Tournament Club for the men which is held

every other week in the winter months in the Library basement.

Sioux Rapids is a town of craft clubs, the Lucky 13 which was the first and was started by Ethel Carter.

The others are the Busy Fingers, M. V. D., Kraft Club, Krafty Kraft Klub, Wee Craft Club and the Cheer Crafters.

These craft clubs have a main desire of creating something original and beautiful. Work was done in ceramics, leather tooling, copper tooling, aluminum etching, wood painting, wood fiber and nylon flowers, and a host of other beautiful items were created.

There is also an African Violet Club. Some members have over a hundred plants.

There is also the Masonic Lodge with a large number of members. Meetings are held in the Masonic Hall.

The newest club organized at Sioux Rapids was "The Questors." The "Questors" is a national organization of people who collect or are interested in the study of antiques. At present there are only three in Iowa. One chapter is located in Des Moines, one in Fort Dodge and one in Sioux Rapids. It is known as the Siouan Chapter. The Siouan Chapter was organized in Sioux Rapids in March, 1955. Our Nation Chapter Number is 36. The name Siouan was given to a group of tribes, the Sioux being most prominent in general area of "Sioux Land."

Motto: "It's fun to search and a joy to find." President, Mrs. Norman Nyland; Vice-President, Mrs. R. R. Burr.

There are also a number of people who have interesting hobbies. Collector of Antiques, Mrs. R. R. Burr. Collector of Pencils, OK Motel. Collector of Pencils, Verne Holleson. Collector of Old-time Post Cards, Edna Robbins. Collector of Guns, Eilet Torkelson. Collector of History from Storm Lake to Spirit Lake, Mrs. Guy Mills. Making Flowers, Mrs. Lenore Holleson.

#### GIRLS' 4-H

Lee Lassies organized on November 13, 1949, with 12 members. They studied about clothing with Frances Stanzil, Barbara Halverson and Annette Fairchild as leaders. The officers were as follows: President, Janet Mills; Vice-President, Sovig Hansen; Secretary-Treasurer, Ardyce Benson; Reporter, Janice Ingram, and Historian, Corlyss Sundblad.

In 1950 they had 17 members with Annette Fairchild and Francis Stanzil as leaders. That year they studied nutrition. Officers: President, Ardyce Benson; Vice-President, Shirley Noble, Secretary-Treasurer, Pat Brugman; Reporter, Kay Kas, and Historian, Sharon Pritchard. Ardyce Benson went to convention. Barbara Hoover and Shirley Noble went to camp. Sharon Pritchard and Pat





Brugman were the demonstration team. They took a blue ribbon at the fair.

1951—Subject: Home Furnishings. Members: 15. Leaders: Annette Fairchild and Velda Brummer. Officers: President, Shirley Noble; Vice-President, Judy Anderson; Secretary-Treasurer, Kay Kas; Reporter, Janice Ingram, and Historian, Ardyce Benson. Convention: Shirley Noble. Camp: Corlyss Sunblad, Margaret McCrary and Kay Kas. Blue Ribbon Demonstration Team: Kay Kas and Shirley Noble. Style Revue Girl: Sharon Pritchard.

1952—Subject: Clothing. Members: 11. Leaders: Mrs. Glen Ingram and Mrs. M. N. Taylor. Officers: President, Judy Anderson; Vice-President, Sharon Pritchard; Secretary-Treasurer, Shirley Noble; Reporter, Kay Kas, and Historian, Margaret McCrary. Convention, Kay Kas. Camp, Judy Anderson, Judy Benson and Sharon Pritchard. Blue Ribbon Junior Demonstration Team, Sharon Brummer and Marlene Taylor. Shirley Noble was Secretary-Treasurer of the county this year. Good Grooming Girl: Shirley Noble.

1953—Subject: Nutrition. Members: 14. Leaders: Mrs. Kenneth Kas and Mrs. Guy Fairchild. Officers: President, Pat Brugman; Vice-President, Kay Kas; Secretary-Treasurer, Judy Benson; Reporter, Marlene Taylor and Historian, Sharon Brummer; Camp: Ruth Wilbur and Sharon Brummer. Red Ribbon Demonstration Team: Ruth Wilbur and Margaret McCrary. Blue Ribbon Junior Demonstration Team: Janice Edwardson and Jeanette Krohn. Good Grooming Girl, Senior, Pat Brugman; Good Grooming Girl, Junior, Janice Edwardson.

1954—Subject: Home Furnishings. Members 15. Leaders: Mrs. Ken Kas and Mrs. Eddie Edwardson. Officers: President, Kay Kas; Vice-President, Sharon Brummer; Secretary-Treasurer, Margaret McCrary. Reporter, Janice Edwardson and Historian, Pat Brugman. Convention, Margaret McCrary. Camp: Patsy Waldstein and Mary Herrig. Senior Good Grooming Girl and County Good Grooming Girl: Kay Kas. Junior Good Grooming Girl:

Janice Edwardson. Red Ribbon Demonstration Team: Patsy Waldstein and Barbara Williams.

1955—Subject: Clothing. Members: 16. Leaders: Mrs. Ken Kas and Mrs. Eddie Edwardson. Officers: President, Margaret McCrary; Vice-President, Mary Herrig; Secretary-Treasurer, Sharon Brummer; Reporter, Barbara Williams, and Historian, Patsy Waldstein. Convention, Sharon Brummer. Margaret McCrary chosen Secretary-Treasurer of the county.

## BOYS' 4-H

Sioux Rapids is proud to have a boy's 4-H club too. It has a large membership and each boy takes an active part in the work to be done.

Sioux Rapids has such a colorful history that one could write many pages more about it but the time has come that we must call a halt. But before we go let us extend our sincerest congratulations to these wonderful pioneers still living in our community and if we have missed any our congratulations to them also.

Name	Age
Tonette Halvorson.....	102
Matilda Steen.....	98
I. B. Christiansen.....	95
Stella Torkelson.....	95
Mrs. Whitehead.....	95
George Streeter.....	90
Emma Jacobson.....	83
Luella Fairchild.....	83
Oliver Landsness.....	78
Mrs. Robert Watson, (approx.).....	86
Mrs. Ed Sitz.....	97
Lena Seifken.....	86
E. E. Thomas.....	77
J. F. Thompson.....	80
Mrs. Lee.....	97



## SIoux RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standing: A. B. Caskey, Chief; Jim Matthies, Ass't. Chief; George Kroh, Rural Chief; Ronald Holleson, Ass't. Town Chief.

Back Row: Raymond Lindlief, Lloyd Sarvold, Al Treinen.

Sitting: Dick Baldwin, Ben Behrens, Denis Breuer, Enos Huffman, Rush Williams.





The Sioux Rapids Centennial Corporation wishes to acknowledge the fine support given the Committee by the following Advertisers in the publication of this Centennial Historical-Program Book:

#### SIoux RAPIDS

First State Bank  
Bulletin-Press  
Farm Implement Co.  
Clara's Cafe  
Marsh "66" Station  
Arnett Hardware  
Harold Klindt  
People's Food Market  
Raymond Bertness  
Phillips Motor Clinic  
Dr. Polson  
Danny Wenck  
Sioux Rapids Hatchery  
George's Drug Store  
Rice & Lehr Insurance  
Ryan Grain Co.  
John Brummer  
Warne's Wonderland  
Sioux Implement Co.  
E. E. Thomas  
Glenn Ingram  
Sioux Rapids Skelgas  
Sioux Theater  
Well's Barber Shop  
Leonard Knudtson  
Thompson Yards  
Vic Schuelke Motors  
Dr. D. E. Endersby  
Dr. Gilbertson  
Soo Lockers  
Sundblad Trucking  
Remillard Plumbing  
Dr. Kleavland  
Holders Variety  
Burr's Clothing  
O. K. Motel

Haldin Hauling Service  
Soo Cleaners  
Henry Funeral Home  
Quaker Oats Elevator  
Leona's Produce  
Norgaard Furniture  
Soo Bowling  
Anderson Flowers  
Don's Hamburger Shop  
Young Motors  
Carris Auto Service  
Gamble Store  
E. & L. Clothing  
Mays Barber Shoppe  
Richard Alverson  
Johnson's Store  
Samuelson's Feed Store  
Coast-to-Coast  
Junior Halverson  
Lloyd Sarvold  
Paul Krile  
Simonsen Iron Works

#### SPENCER

Schnorr Motor Co.  
Richey's Inc.  
Spencer Plant Foods, Inc.  
Midwest Piano Co.  
The Woman's Shop  
Ellerbrock's  
Pixler Electric  
Farmers Trust and Savings Bank  
KICD Radio Station  
Redmond's Shoe Shop  
Spencer Dairy Products  
Nelson's Jewelry  
Spencer Daily Reporter

Nesbitt Bottling Co.  
Asher Motor Co.  
Spencer Grocer Co.

#### STORM LAKE

Storm Lake Pilot Tribune & Register  
Paxton Jeweler  
Ressler's Drug Store  
DeKalb Association  
Otto Furniture  
Clough Auto Parts  
Botine Electric  
Witt Sales  
Vilas Co.  
Kelly's Hardware  
Hansen Motor Co.  
Kingan Co.  
Ireland Drug Store  
Culligan Soft Water  
Farm Bureau of Buena Vista County

#### REMBRANDT

Cargill Elevator  
First National Bank  
Smith Bros. Produce  
Rath Packing Co.

#### MARATHON

Wendell Riddie  
Cliff Burns  
Marathon Plumbing & Heating

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Royal United Shows  
Sutherland Creamery  
Frank Agnew  
Fillenwarth's Cottages  
Sioux Dairy, Peterson & Sioux Rapids



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—Top Row: Ralph Young, Waddy Remillard, Gordon Nedergaard, Homer George, Don Anderson, Al Gran.

Bottom Row: Vic Schuelke, Warren Linebarger, Al Arnett, Merritt Holder, Lowell Henry

*This Is a Direct Acknowledgment  
of the Very Active Part  
Taken by the  
LEE COMMUNITY CLUB  
in the Promotion of  
This Book*





# LIONS CLUB OFFICERS



Left to right: Harry Warne, Don Stanzel, Harvey Carris, Merritt Holder, Kenneth Cate.



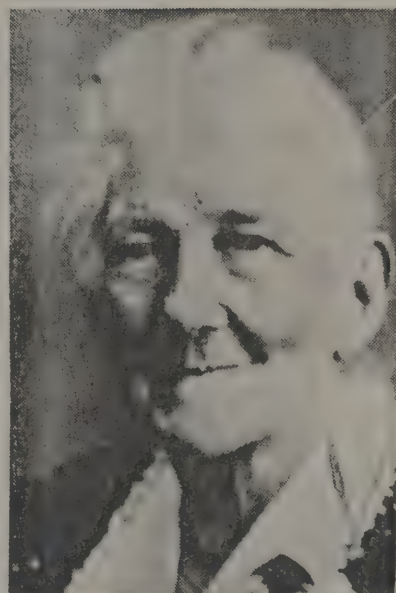
Clyde Jones, Vincent Pritchard, Guy Fairchild.



Wade Smith



JOSIE FERNAU  
Head of local hospital



Mrs. Tonette Halverson  
Pioneer Resident. Age 102.





SIOUX RAPIDS TOWN COUNCIL—1955



Mayor L. D. Williams, Harvey Carris, Waddie Remillard.



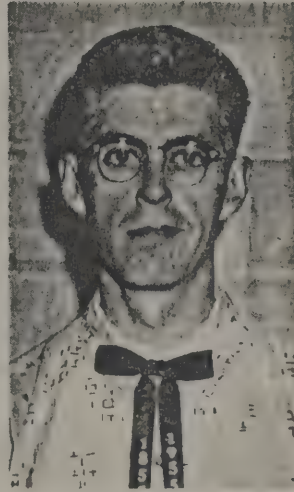
Henry Herrig



Chic Evans



Rodney  
Kleaveland



Richard  
Burr

SIOUX RAPIDS SCHOOL BOARD—1955

Top row, left to right:  
Ivan Thompson, D. W. Fernau,  
D. E. Endersby.

Bottom row: Mrs. Luella  
Bradley, Glen Ingram, Supt.  
Elmer Parks.



C. F. Kischer





OFFICERS, GROUND OBSERVER CORPS—Sioux Rapids Observation Post

Back Row: Warren Linebarger, Captain; Donald Stanzel, Captain; Walter Simonsen, Captain; Bob Coffman, Assistant Chief Observer; Homer George, Captain; Merritt Holder, Captain; Lloyd Turnwall, Captain.

Front Row: Jay Bales, Captain; Charles G. Gustafson, Chief Observer; Georgia Polson, Captain; Ruthe George, Captain; Jerry Lehr, Observation Post Supervisor; Ted Witter, Assistant Chief Observer; Cordelia Johnson, Captain. (Aubrey George, Captain, and Betty Nylund, Captain, not in picture).

GOC Volunteers: Keith Palmer, James Rice, Dave Endersby, Glen Johnson, Jim Parks, Chic Evans, Kenneth Cate, Al Gran, Les Cornwell, Lyle McKercher, Wade Smith, Guy E. Fairchild, Allan A. Arnett, Vernon Remillard, Jack Hollesen, Harold H. Chesley, L. D. Williams, Harry E. Esterbrook, D. W. Fernau, Raymond Lindlief, C. E. Marsh, A. J. Meyer, I. R. Remillard, T. W. Fairchild, Rev. J. T. Snyder, Art Cady, Emmert Norgaard, Gordon Larsen, Victor Schuelke, Oscar Mays, Lou Pingel, Jerald Fairchild, Eddy Torkelson, Ted Cuthbert, Darrell Matthews, Betty Matthews, Arthur J. Scott, Eilet Torkelson, Harley Holmes, Gale Halverson, Lois Endersby, Grace Cate, Lucile Evans, Helen Linebarger, Sally Warne, Irene Agnew, Maxine Stephenson, Frances Cady, Cleone Schneck, Catherine Malone, Mary Jane Henry, Donna Gilbertson, LaVera Parks, Pauline Bales, Ruth Grey, Agnes Seebeck, Mildred Blount, Fern Gibson, Mrs. Jen M. Pingel, Bonnie Larsen, Gladys Olson, Hattie Bovee, Mavis Torkelson, Benita Williams, Mrs. Kay Coffman, Mrs. Al Kichter, Mrs. Waldo Remillard, Mrs. S. Knudtson, Mrs. Edna Schneck, Mrs. Inez Fortune, Jo Ellen Junkemeier, Mrs. Ted Cuthbert, Mrs. Geo. Hadenfeldt, Mrs. Raymond Lindlief, Carolyn Willard, Mrs. Marion Willard.

## THE PIONEER CLUB

Residents of Sioux Rapids who have lived here continuously for 50 years or more.

Mrs. G. A. Whiting  
George Streeter  
Mrs. Tonette Halverson  
C. V. Anderson  
Mrs. F. E. Anderson  
Cyril Anderson  
Mrs. Anna Bradley  
Bob Bradley  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy R. Burr  
Howard Byam  
G. A. Cady  
T. B. Christenson  
W. H. Colburn  
Nelle Cullen  
Effie Crick  
Alex Cuthbert  
Katherine Davidson  
N. F. Doyle  
Mrs. Allie Doyle  
Mrs. E. M. Duroe  
Mrs. Oscar Eaton  
Andrew Edwardson  
Charles Fairchild

Fred Fairchild  
Mrs. Luella Fairchild  
O. S. Geisinger  
Lena Graeber  
Dan Haase  
George Hadenfeldt  
B. A. Halverson  
Elmer Hanson  
Ed Ingram  
Floyd Ingram  
Glenn Ingram  
Miss Emma Jacobsen  
Miss Madeline Jacobson  
Mrs. J. C. Johnson  
J. O. Landsness  
Levi Landsness  
W. H. Lauman  
Blanche Leonard  
C. E. Marsh  
A. G. Mills  
Guy Mills  
R. L. Mogster

Albert Ness  
Roy Ness  
Carl Ness  
John A. Nowning  
Lars Nydahl  
Mrs. Nora Oberg  
Henry Olson  
Noah Orsland  
G. A. Osmundson  
C. H. Pewsey  
Carl Phipps  
Ernest Phipps  
Mrs. Frank Remillard  
I. R. Remillard  
Jesse Remillard  
Mrs. Anna Reng  
O. A. Risvold  
Mrs. Edna Schneck  
Belle Sickles  
Ruth Sickles  
Mrs. C. C. Simonsen  
Lou Mays

Mrs. Emma Simonsen  
A. C. Smith  
George T. Smith  
Josephine Snyder  
S. M. Sorenson  
Hans Struve  
Mrs. Nels Suckow  
E. E. Thomas  
Mrs. T. H. Whitehead  
Mrs. Jennie Willard  
Mush Williams  
Mrs. Roy Burr  
Mrs. Harley Holmes  
John F. Thompson  
Ross Refsland  
Art Refsland  
Lena Refsland  
Mrs. Mathilda Steen  
Carrie Simonson  
Seward Sarvold  
Lloyd Sarvold  
Mrs. Agnes Seebeck





*Bowling at Its Best*

## **SIOUX BOWLING LANES**

**Percy and Gay**

**Phone 4291**

---

## **ANDERSON'S FLOWERS**

*Our Silver Anniversary — 1955*

---

*We Are Proud to Be With You on Your 100th Birthday*

## **SPENCER GROCER COMPANY**

**SPENCER, IOWA**

---

## **DON'S HAMBURGER SHOP**

*Good Coffee — Quick Service*

---

## **YOUNG MOTORS**

*Ford — Lincoln — Mercury*

**Ralph Young**

**SIOUX RAPIDS**

**Phone 4951**





## **CARRIS AUTO SERVICE**

Body and Fender Repair

Painting

Motor Overhaul

Tune-Up

Wheel Balancing

Front-End Alignment

HARVEY, JIM AND CALVIN

## **GAMBLES STORES**

HARRY F. BLACKERT

Sioux Rapids, Iowa

PHONE 4831

*Congratulations*

SIOUX RAPIDS

on

Your 100 Years of Progress

COMPLIMENTS

of

**KINGAN, INC.**

*Buyers of Livestock*

Storm Lake, Iowa

*STOP and SHOP*

at

**KRILE'S**

**SUPER MARKET**

"We Lead and Others Follow"

**THE BEST**

**Meats, Groceries and  
Vegetables**

**SAVE WITH OUR ONE-STOP  
FOOD SERVICE**

**OPEN EVENINGS**

**The Most for Your Food Dollar All Ways**

**LOTS OF PARKING SPACE**

**Hi-way 71**

**Dial 5841**



## **E. & L. CLOTHING**

Sioux Rapids

---

## **MAY'S BARBER SHOP**

Oscar Mays, Proprietor

---

## **ARTIFICIAL BREEDING SERVICE**

RICHARD ALVERSON, Technician

Ph. 2491

Sioux Rapids

---

## **JOHNSEN'S CLOVER FARM FOOD MARKET**

Glenn Johnsen

Ph. 2171

---

## **SAMUELSON FEED & SUPPLY**

*Feeds — Seeds — Oil — Gas*

Ph. 5131

Sioux Rapids





# COAST-TO-COAST STORES

*A Good Place to Come*

*for*

**Houseware — Hardware**

**Sporting Goods**

**Automotive**

**JAY BALES**

*Congratulations*

*from*

**The Buena Vista County  
Farm Bureau**

**"The Voice of Organized Agriculture"**

Legislative Program

Educational Program

Service-to-Member Program

**Member Iowa and American Farm Bureau  
Federation**

....., 195...

## FILLENWARTH'S 40 BEACH COTTAGES

**ARNOLDS PARK, IOWA**

Gentlemen:

I want a SUMMER VACATION COTTAGE AT THE WATER'S EDGE  
OF WEST LAKE OKOBOJI FROM.....to.....,  
195..., for.....persons.

I want it to face WEST, so I can see the sunset reflections on this most  
famous spring-fed lake.

I want it to be fully modern, heated, well furnished for cooking, dining  
and sleeping, containing hot shower and electric refrigerator.

I prefer to be 1 to 4 blocks north of the famous MAMMOTH AMUSE-  
MENT PARK, where 1,000,000 vacation annually at sandy beaches and  
rollicking festivities.

At my cottage, I like shaded grounds, equipped PRIVATE DOCK and  
PLAY GROUND, play house, games, children's vehicles, patio, open-air,  
over-the-lake dance floor with music, boats, canoes, speed boat, surf riding,  
away from the noise of the PARK and busy highways.

Kindly send circular and your low prices.

Yours, truly,

Name .....

Address .....





## **HENRY FUNERAL HOME**

**Sioux Rapids, Iowa**

**Phone 2331**

**LOWELL W. HENRY**

**Funeral Director**

## **YOUR PRODUCE**

**Cash Buyers**

**Cream, Eggs and Poultry**

**Headquarters for**

**CONKYS & RED COMB FEEDS**

**Leona I. Heidelbauer**

**Sioux Rapids**

**Phone 4431**

## **The QUAKER OATS COMPANY**

***Your Home Grain Market***

**SEED — FEED**

**FERTILIZER**

**L. D. (BUTCH) WILLIAMS**

**Manager**

## **NORGAAD FURNITURE**

**Emmert - Dorothy - Jim**

**Sioux Rapids**

**PH. 2161**



## WELLS BARBER SHOP

SIOUX RAPIDS

---

## CLOUGH AUTO PARTS

*We Service Your Dealers*

MACHINE SHOP

111-115 Railroad St.

Phone 1212

Storm Lake, Iowa

---

## SHADY REST OIL STATION

*Standard Oil Products*

Frank Agnew

Phone 6F6

Sioux Rapids, Iowa



## KNUDTSON TRUCK LINE

*25 Years in Business*

1 Tandem (37 Feet)      1 Single Axle

1 Straight Truck

Ph. 2311

---

## REDMOND'S SHOE STORE

*Shoes for Entire Family*

SPENCER'S LARGEST

SPENCER, IOWA





# **SIOUX THEATRE**

*"So Much Entertainment  
for So Little"*

**PROGRAM      Al. Gran      AUGUST**

**Sun.-Mon.-Tues.-Wed.      31-Aug. 1-2-3**  
**"DADDY LONG LEGS"**

*(CinemaScope)*

Fred Astaire, Leslie Caron, Terry Moore

**Thurs.-Fri.-Sat.      4-5-6**

**"THE SEA CHASE"**

John Wayne, Lana Turner, Tab. Hunter

**Sun.-Mon.-Tues.-Wed.      7-8-9-10**

**"A MAN CALLED PETER"**

*(CinemaScope)*

Rich. Todd, Jean Peters, Marj. Rambeau

**Thurs.-Fri.-Sat.      11-12-13**

**"VIOLENT SATURDAY"**

*(CinemaScope)*

Victor Mature, Sylvia Sidney, Richard Egan

**Sun.-Mon.-Tues.-Wed.      14-15-16-17**

**"THE SEVEN LITTLE FOYS"**

Bob Hope, Milly Vitale, Angela Clark

**Thurs.-Fri.-Sat.      18-19-20**

**"THE FAR HORIZONS"**

Chariton Heston, Donna Reed

**Sun.-Mon.-Tues.      21-22-23**

**"THE PRODIGAL"**

*(CinemaScope)*

Lana Turner, Edmund Purdom, L. Calhern

**Wed.-Thurs.-Fri.-Sat.      24-25-26-27**

**"THE BLACKBOARD JUNGLE"**

Glenn Ford, Anne Francis, Louis Calhern

**Sun.-Mon.-Tues.-Wed.-Thurs.**

**Aug. 28-29-30-31-Sept. 1**

**"STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND"**

James Stewart, June Allyson, Frank Lovejoy

**Watch September Program for Definite  
Dates on**

**"The Seven Year Itch"**

**"How to Be Very, Very, Popular"**

## **CONDENSED STATEMENT of the Condition of the**

# **FARMERS TRUST and SAVINGS BANK**

**SPENCER, IOWA**

**At the Close of Business December 31, 1954**

### **RESOURCES**

Cash and Due from Banks . . . . .	\$1,444,189.86
Federal and Municipal Bonds . . . . .	3,391,788.83

CASH or EQUIVALENT . . . . .	\$4,835,978.69
General Loans . . . . .	2,051,036.10
Real Estate Loans . . . . .	646,061.68
FHA and GI Loans . . . . .	100,165.69
Banking House and Fixtures . . . . .	44,436.18

TOTAL RESOURCES . . . . .	\$7,677,678.34
---------------------------	----------------

### **LIABILITIES**

Capital . . . . .	\$ 200,000.00
Surplus . . . . .	200,000.00
Undivided Profits . . . . .	220,000.00
Reserves . . . . .	46,363.31

TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS . . . . .	\$ 666,363.31
Deposits . . . . .	7,011,315.03

TOTAL LIABILITIES . . . . .	\$7,677,678.34
-----------------------------	----------------

**Your Business Is Appreciated**

Member F.D.I.C.

# **Congratulations**

# **KICD**

# **1240 KC**

# **Spencer and**

# **Spirit Lake**





## MARATHON PLUMBING & HEATING

Julian Nygaard, Prop.

Phone 2291

McDONALD AND MONITOR PUMPS

KOHLER, AMERICAN STANDARD, AND ELJER BATH FIXTURES

*Quality and Service*

---

## SIoux RAPIDS SKELGAS

*Appliances — Gas Service*

Ph. 2621

Bob Williams

---

## ELLERBROEK'S

*"The Ladies' Store"*

SPENCER, IOWA

Stores at Spencer, Sheldon, Cherokee and Storm Lake

---

## PIXLER ELECTRIC COMPANY

*Motor Rewinding a Specialty*

ELECTRIC MOTORS, PILLOW BLOCKS, LATHE WORK

Spencer, Iowa

Telephone 1262

Delivery Service

---

## OTTO FURNITURE

*Drive In and Save \$\$\$\$*

North Lake Avenue

Phone 76

Storm Lake, Iowa



## **CLARA'S CAFE**

*Home Cooked Meals — Short Orders — Sandwiches*

**Clara Torkelson, Owner**

**Ph. 5031**

---

## **PAXTON JEWELRY**

*Registered Jeweler American Gem Society*

**STORM LAKE, IOWA**

---

## **MARSH 66 STATION**

**SIOUX RAPIDS, IOWA**

*Serving You for Twenty-two Years*

**Phone 4801**

---

*Wiring — Plumbing — Water Systems*

## **ARNETT HARDWARE**

**Al & Son — Vicky — Walt**

**Sioux Rapids, Iowa**

**Phone 4721**

---

*We Bale Your Hay the New Holland Way*

## **HAROLD KLINDT**

**Sioux Rapids**

**Ph. 2500**





**CONGRATULATIONS  
SIOUX RAPIDS**

on the occasion of your  
Centennial Celebration

**Storm Lake Register**

(Published Tuesdays)

and The

**Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune**

(Published Thursdays)

**CARGILL, INC.**

Custom Grinding

Mixing Grain

Nutrena Feeds

Seed — Fertilizer

Grain Cleaning

Phone 5191

Rembrandt, Iowa

**WENDELL RITCHIE**

MARATHON, IOWA

**AUCTIONEER**

Auctioneering for All Kinds  
of Public Sales

FARM, TOWN PROPERTY, HOUSEHOLD

**Make Date Arrangement Early**

MEMBER OF STATE AND  
NATIONAL AUCTIONEERS ASS'N

**REAL ESTATE BROKER**

Phone 2991

MARATHON, IOWA

**FARM IMPLEMENT CO.**

**ALLIS-CHALMERS**

*Sales and Service*

**NEW IDEA**

**FARM IMPLEMENTS**

*Complete Tractor Repair*

**CLAIRE FERGUSON, Proprietor**

Dial 4091

**SIOUX RAPIDS**





# *for over 70 years*

## THE SIOUX RAPIDS TERRITORY HAS BEEN SERVED WITH A **Hometown Newspaper**

THE ECHO — THE PRESS — THE REPUBLICAN  
THE REPUBLICAN PRESS AND THE  
**BULLETIN-PRESS**

*A Growing Newspaper — A Growing Community*

AS PRESENT-DAY PUBLISHERS WE ARE PROUD  
TO BE A PART OF THE PAST 100 YEARS

Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Witter

Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Coffman

---

## RELIABLE BANKING

### A COMPLETE BANKING & INSURANCE SERVICE

*Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation*

You we thank for the business you have entrusted to us. We feel the responsibility it puts upon us and our aim shall be to worthily discharge this obligation. You and your friends will always find a welcome.

**SIOUX RAPIDS**  
Phone 2531

LOUIS F. PINGEL, President

ARTHUR J. SCOTT, Cashier

W. W. LINEBARGER, Asst. Cashier

**LINN GROVE**  
Phone 32

A. R. REHNSTROM, Vice-President

C. E. MATTHEWS, Asst. Cashier

# THE FIRST STATE BANK



## **THOMPSON YARDS**

**Retailers of Lumber**

**Millwork — Paint — Cement**

**Building Materials**

**WE FINANCE**

**WE FURNISH PLANS**

**G. F. Halverson**

**Telephone 3681      Sioux Rapids**

**D. E. ENDERSBY, D.D.S.**

**Sioux Rapids, Iowa**

## **SIOUX DAIRY**

**PASTEURIZED**

**DAIRY PRODUCTS**

**Sioux Rapids and Peterson**

**For Better Deals**

**For Better Service**

**TRY**

**VIC SCHUELKE MOTORS**

*Chrysler-Plymouth Dealer*

**Phone 4641      Sioux Rapids**







**We Are Pleased to Bring Our  
Royal United Shows and Stage Show  
Back Home**

**Sincere Greetings to All Our Old Friends  
MR. AND MRS. JOHNNY DORLAND**





# *Peoples Food Market*

**GOOD PLACE TO TRADE**

**Harold Chesley, Manager**

**Sioux Rapids**

**Ph. 4331**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
SIOUX RAPIDS**

*"100 years  
a good town"*

**SCHMORR MOTOR CO.**

**Spencer, Iowa**

**Pioneer Hybrid Seed Corn  
and**

**County Mutual Fire and  
Windstorm Insurance**

**RAYMOND BERTNESS**

**Sioux Rapids**

**Ph. 3564**



CONGRATULATIONS, SIOUX RAPIDS, ON YOUR  
100th ANNIVERSARY—Francis R. Phillips

## PHILLIPS MOTOR CLINIC

*Complete Automotive Service*

Dial 2441

Sioux Rapids, Iowa

---

## RICHEY'S, INC.

*Where Your Food Dollar Goes Farther!*

NORTHWEST IOWA'S GREATEST SHOPPING CENTER  
IN SPENCER

---

## THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

REMBRANDT, IOWA

---

OFFICE PHONE 4351

RES. PHONE 3131

OFFICE HOURS—BY APPOINTMENT

9 to 12, 1:30 to 5, Daily — Monday and Thursday Evenings 7 to 9

No Office Hours Saturday

## DR. M. W. POLSON

*Chiropractor*

NEUROCALOMETER AND X-RAY SERVICE

Box No. V

Sioux Rapids, Iowa

---

*For Farm Delivery of Our Fine Dairy Products*

*contact your neighbor or*

PHONE 216 — SPENCER

## SPENCER DAIRY PRODUCTS





## **J. E. GILBERTSON, D.D.S.**

Telephone 2291

Sioux Rapids

---

## **BOTINE ELECTRIC MOTOR REWINDING**

*Sales & Service*

A. C. Botine

1207 North Lake Ave.

Storm Lake, Iowa

---

## **WITT SALES**

*Wholesale*

**CIGARS**

**TOBACCO**

**CANDY**

Storm Lake, Iowa

---

## **NELSON'S**

*A Fine Jewelry Store*

**SPENCER, IOWA**

---

## **SOO LOCKER SERVICE**

*Custom Butchering and Processing*

**Cutting and Wrapping for Home Freezers**

**PICKUP SERVICE — LOCKERS FOR RENT**

**Phone 2321**

**Don and Opal DuBois**





# DONATIONS

<b>DRS. CAMPBELL &amp; MATTICE</b>	<b>Sioux Rapids</b>
<b>ALVIN MOE</b> .....	<b>Sioux Rapids</b>
<b>PEARL JOHNSON'S CAFE</b> ...	<b>Sioux Rapids</b>
<b>WOMAN'S SHOP</b> .....	<b>Storm Lake</b>
<b>S. M. STORE</b> .....	<b>Storm Lake</b>
<b>TOOHEY CLOTHING</b> .....	<b>Storm Lake</b>
<b>J. F. LUMBER CO.</b> .....	<b>Spencer</b>
<b>WOODCOCK FLORAL CO.</b> .....	<b>Spencer</b>
<b>REMBRANDT BOOSTER</b> .....	<b>Rembrandt</b>

**DANNY WENCK**

**Corn Shelling Service**

**Moews Seed Corn**

**MARATHON, IOWA**

**Ph. 2582**

**Sioux Rapids**

**Compliments**

**of**

**Fertiflow Brand**

**Spencer Plant Foods**

**SPENCER, IOWA**



## **RATH PACKING COMPANY**

*Livestock Buyers*

Earl and Quentin Peterson

Phone 5841

Rembrandt, Iowa

---

## **VILAS & COMPANY**

*Home of Vita Mash Feeds*

STORM LAKE, IOWA

---

## **KELLY'S HARDWARE**

*Make Our Store Your Store*

DELWALT SAWS — SUPER-FLAME HEATERS

516 Erie Street

Phone 82

Storm Lake, Iowa

---

## **HANSEN MOTOR COMPANY**

*Dodge — Plymouth*

Phones 1710 and 174

1104 N. Lake Avenue

Storm Lake, Iowa

---

## **ASHER MOTOR CO.**

*Dodge and Plymouth Cars*

*Dodge Job-Rated Trucks*

SALES and SERVICE

Phone: 273

Spencer, Iowa





## Sioux Rapids Hatchery and Produce

Baby Chicks — Feeds  
Supplies — Service

*Cash Buyers of Cream and Eggs*

Martin Heidelbergbauer, Owner

Ph. 4781

Sioux Rapids

## GEORGE'S DRUG STORE

Sioux Rapids, Iowa

VETERINARY SUPPLIES  
IMPERIAL WALLPAPER  
LOWE BROS. PAINT

*Established Over 40 Years*

Registered Pharmacist on Duty



## DEKALB

*Leader in . . .*

SALES  
YIELDS  
RESEARCH  
RESULTS

LOOK TO DEKALB FOR THE NEWER  
—THE FINER THINGS IN CORN  
& CHIX RESEARCH

Bred to Make You More Money

## DeKalb Agric. Assn., Inc.

DEKALB, ILLINOIS

Office Phone

4681

Home Phone

2691

## JOHN BRUMMER

*Dealer in Implements*

SIOUX RAPIDS, IOWA





# Sundblad Truck Line

LOCAL & LONG DISTANCE TRUCKING

*Fully Insured General Trucking*

DIAL 4211

OSCAR SUNDBLAD, *Manager*

1 STRAIGHT TRUCK

2 TANDEM SEMI'S

Sioux Rapids, Iowa

---

*its REAL BIG NEWS . . .*



when the  
SPENCER DAILY REPORTER  
and  
SPENCER SUNDAY TIMES  
ARRIVES!!



*finest in Northwest Iowa*

★ AP Wire Service

★ Award Winning Local News Covering Staff

★ Northwest Iowa's Top Advertising Media



## MIDWEST PIANO COMPANY

*Your Wurlitzer Organ Dealer*

FEATURING ELEVEN LINES OF PIANOS

215 Grand Ave.

Phone 1980

Spencer, Iowa

---

## RICE & LEHR INSURANCE AGENCY

Telephone 3121

SIOUX RAPIDS, IOWA

Jim Rice

Jerry Lehr

---

## RESSLER DRUG STORE

*Prescriptions — Farm Supplies — Sundries*  
*Fountain Service*

Phone 97

Storm Lake, Iowa

---

## RYAN GRAIN COMPANY

GRAIN — FEED — COAL

Harvey Ryan

Ph. 4971

Sioux Rapids

---

## BEST WISHES FROM THE WOMAN'S SHOP

*Apparel of Distinction*

R. L. and I. J. Dvergsten

SPENCER, IOWA





**O. K. MOTEL**  
SIOUX RAPIDS, IOWA  
on Highways 71 and 10

L. J. and Oral Schlemme

Phone 5091

---

**HALDIN HAULING SERVICE**

*Dirt — Gravel — Garden Dirt*

J. R. Haldin

Phone 3692

Sioux Rapids

---

**CLIFFORD BURNS**

*General Trucking*

MARATHON

LINN GROVE

---

**SUTHERLAND CREAMERY COMPANY**

*Manufacturers of Fancy Creamery Butter  
and Pure Dried Buttermilk*

B. H. MILLER, Manager

Telephone No. 13

Sutherland, Iowa

GET THAT DELICIOUS FAIRMONT ICE CREAM FROM YOUR HAULER

---

**SOO CLEANERS**

*"Your Cleaner Is Your Clothes' Best Friend"*

Phone 3731 for "Two-Bath Dry Cleaning"





**CONGRATULATIONS**

**SIoux RAPIDS CENTENNIAL**

# **The "Wonderland"**

**HARRY and SALLY WARNE**

**for your**

**GIFTS — FOUNTAIN — SUNDRIES**

## **Sioux Implement Company**



**SYMBOL OF  
SERVICE**

**Phone 4931**

**Sioux Rapids, Iowa**

**McCORMICK FARM EQUIPMENT**

**INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS**

**REFRIGERATION**

**New Holland Machinery**

**General Electric Appliances**



## REMILLARD PLUMBING

Dryers

Kitchen Cabinets

Lennox Furnaces

Waddie Remillard

PHONE 3921

Drs.

Kleaveland & Kleaveland

*VETERINARIANS*

PHONES:

Office 3461

Res. 3861

Sioux Rapids, Iowa

## HOLDER'S VARIETY

L. J. and Merrit

Sioux Rapids

## BURR'S

CLOTHING

and

SHOES

Sioux Rapids





## *Congratulations*

**SIoux RAPIDS CENTENNIAL**

**1855 - 1955**

**Lloyd Sarvold**

## **SARVOLD GARAGE**

**Towing Service**

**Automobiles and Tractors**

**General Repairs**

**Corner of Thomas and Highway 71**

## **We Are Sioux Rapids' Oldest Firm—This Is Our Fiftieth Year!**

We are the only manufacturing industry in Sioux Rapids. Our 20 items are distributed nationally under the trademarks "Simo" and "So-Boss" through 250 jobbers and hundreds of dealers. Our sales are not local in nature—in fact 85% of our sales are outside of Iowa. This means we bring thousands of dollars into the community annually—from the OUTSIDE. We have a large steady payroll and our employees spend heavily at home as we do—we support local activities generously and pay our share of taxes. We trust we may grow and prosper with Sioux Rapids in the years to come.

## **SIMONSEN IRON WORKS, INC.**

**Manufacturers of  
HARDWARE AND IMPLEMENT SPECIALTIES**

**Sioux Rapids, Iowa**

Established 1906 by the late N. C. Simonsen  
Incorporated 1946



**E. E. THOMAS**

**PIONEER SEED CORN SALESMAN  
SINCE 1932**

**SIoux RAPIDS, IOWA**

**Born in Buena Vista County in 1878**

**For 15 Straight Years  
MORE FARMERS  
Have Planted**



**than any other  
SEED CORN**

**Order Your Seed Corn Today**

**GLEN INGRAM**

**Phone 5594**

**Sioux Rapids**





## IRELAND DRUG CO.

*The REXALL Store*

Phone 46

Storm Lake, Iowa

---

CALL US FOR YOUR WATER CONDITIONING  
PROBLEMS

*We Sell Water Softeners*

### CULLIGAN SOFT WATER SERVICE

RAY FIX, Proprietor

1515 W. Snel on No. 5

Storm Lake, Iowa

---

## SMITH BROS. PRODUCE

Phone 5421

Rembrandt, Iowa

*We Pay Top Prices for Cream, Eggs and Poultry*

Call Us for Culling, Debeaking and Poultry Service Work

*We Carry a Full Line of Golden Sun Feeds and*

*Have Free Delivery and Pickup Service*

*We Have Gland-O-Lac, Hilltop, and Dr. Salsbury Poultry Remedies*  
BILL and LES

---

## CENTENNIAL WHISKERS CANNOT HIDE A WINNER GENUINE PFISTER HYBRID P.A.G. 244



WON FOR  
JUNIOR HALVERSON  
in the  
1954 BUENA VISTA  
5-ACRE  
CORN YIELD TEST



YOU CAN COUNT ON GENUINE PFISTER HYBRIDS  
FOR ALL SOIL AND WEATHER CONDITIONS  
PLANT P.A.G. HYBRIDS IN 1956



IF . . .

You don't like our write-ups;

You don't like our cuts;

You don't like our style;

You don't like the Sioux Rapids Centennial book;

Just publish one yourself.

**EDITOR'S NOTE**—Errors or omissions, typographical errors, misspellings and all oversights will be rectified and acknowledgment made in the next Centennial Program to be published in the year 2055. Please contact committee at that time.



51















